

colonies should be purchased, for a weak colony is dear at any price, particularly in the hands of a beginner.

Some of the most suitable locations in Manitoba are near wooded bluffs, in close proximity to ravines or near streams of running water. Such locations furnish an abundance of honey-bearing trees and plants and are very little exposed to the strong winds so distasteful to bees.

#### SPRING TREATMENT.

The colony should be set out just as soon as willows are in blossom, which is generally about April 20th in this province. The bottom of the hive should be cleaned off and a good warm quilt placed under the lid and the bees set facing the north or east, and only about three inches from the ground. A small tree or shrub at the south of the hive will afford shade from the mid-day sun in summer, and being without leaves in spring will not shade the hive when the full sunshine is needed. A day or two after setting out the colony it should be examined and all empty frames replaced; if short of stores, a little old honey or syrup should be fed to stimulate breeding. By giving the syrup in the evening, robbing will be prevented. A close watch should be kept so as to give increased room as required, and when necessary the surplus honey should be extracted, or a super added, if the tiering-up system is adopted. I am strongly of the opinion that working for extracted honey is the best plan for the beginner, comb honey requires more skill than a beginner usually possesses.

As a rule in Manitoba swarming begins about the end of June, and it is a good plan to have the new hive ready in its permanent location, with new frames filled with comb. As

soon as the bees are all clustered, place the hive under the swarm, remove the lid and shake the majority of the clustering swarm into the hive or before the entrance, place a lid on the hive and in a short time all will march in and start house-keeping in their new quarters. Occasionally a swarm will take a dislike to a hive and abscond. This can be avoided every time if a frame of unsealed brood is placed in the new hive before shaking the cluster into it. A second swarm or even a third one may be expected within a few days, providing the honey flow is abundant. These after-swarms will require some attention in the way of feed, particularly if late in the season.

#### BEE PLANTS.

Our native willow is generally the first plant visited by the bees in early spring and supplies both honey and pollen. This is quickly followed by our native blue-berry or Saskatoon; the wild plum is shortly a mass of bloom and the bees find abundance of feed among them. These are followed by our native maple, the small fruit blossoms, wild rose, etc. During July and August the grindelias and golden rods keep up the supply of honey. During one summer on this farm, the bees have been noticed to feed on sixty different varieties of blossom.

In an average season from fifty to seventy-five pounds of honey may be expected from each colony set out in the spring. The past two seasons have been the two most unfavorable for years and very little surplus has been saved.

The quality of honey in Manitoba is excellent and very uniform, varying very little between spring and fall.