

had hived a prime swarm, and concluded to devote them to extracted honey. The man worked 16 days at \$1.75 a day, and I extracted honey enough from that swarm during those 16 days to pay the man for his work. I tell you this to show that, when properly managed, in a fairly good season, one swarm of bees is equivalent to a man at work in the hay-field, and so it will not pay to neglect a whole apiary to go into the field to work, as many would-be bee-keepers so generally do, and afterwards growl about the bees not paying them. You can hire a man to take your place in the hay or harvest field; but if you expect to be master of the bee business, so as to make it pay, you can not hire a man to take your place in the apiary during the honey season, as it takes much more skill to be a successful honey-producer than it does to pitch hay successfully. When the bees do not require any special attention, then they can be left to do other work as we have time; but if the bee-keeper would be successful, he can not afford to neglect them for a single day, when that day will put them in condition to bring him dollars in the near future."

"I think I begin to see that much which I have thought about 'bees working for nothing and boarding themselves' has been merely an idle dream. But what of the years after 1872?"

"Since then my average income from the bees has not been far from \$1200 a year, above the expense incurred by them. In other words, the bees have paid me a salary of not far from \$1200 a year, on an average, for the past 28 years, and that with only about 75 colonies on an average each year. I have not kept a larger number, on account of other things which demand my attention more or less of the time. Had I bought 50 or more

colonies to start with, the expense in starting would have been from \$350 to \$500, which, in all probability, I should have lost in the business, for I should not have had a knowledge equal to doing so large a business on the start."

"I am glad to have had this talk with you; and now on leaving tell me in brief just what you would advise in the matter of my keeping bees."

"My advice to you, and all others thinking of bee-keeping as a business, would be, purchase from one to four colonies of bees; post yourself by reading and experimenting with them, as you can find time from the business you are already in, and thus find out for yourself which is the better for a livelihood—the business you are already in, or keeping bees. If successful after a series of years, you can give up your other business if you wish to; and if bees are a failure in your hands, then you are but little out for having tried your hand at it."

[Although Mr. Doolittle cautioned beginners against expecting too much from bees, yet in spite of that caution some may imagine they can do as well as he. When he began, prices on honey were much higher than now, and the result from a dollars-and-cents point of view, would be correspondingly higher. Then Mr. Doolittle is also a queen-breeder; and had he not been such it would have been difficult to make him with only 75 colonies, average, to secure such good results. I do not belittle what our friend has done, not in least; but one who begins should understand that the possibilities from so few bees are not great.—ED.] Gleanings.

A delicious flavor is imparted to tea or coffee if sweetened with honey instead of sugar.—Try it.