

main, and the trouble begins. The first prowling bee to find the unprotected honey takes a load and carries it home. The effect is wonderful. It is like a prospector coming into a mining camp with a sackful of gold. Immediately there is a ... outdoors, and the bees which a few minutes before were resting quietly in their hives are rushing through the air in a search for the source of the new flow of honey. They soon find it and clean it up. By this time the "get-rick-quick" fever is in full possession, and the bees are transformed from decent, stay-at-home citizens into perfect fiends. It is no longer a case of a few prowlers, but of a thousand bees ready to pounce upon anything that promises honey, though a free fight be necessary to get possession. Anything sweet has the same effect as honey, and the bees will crowd into a kitchen where fruit is being preserved unless prevented by means of screens, or pile on to fruit-pulp thrown out after jelly has been made from it, or try to chew a hole through a board, or between two boards where there is a narrow crack, to get into the extracting house.

The only thing to do when things get to such a state is to shut everything down tight. Any small colonies must have their entrances made so small that they can defend themselves. Houses and every place where honey is kept must be made absolutely bee-tight, and kept that way. If a small colony is being robbed, it may sometimes be saved by being closed up completely, robbers and all, and set in a cellar or some such place for a couple of days, and then taken out and placed on a new stand. Or if one can find which hive is doing the robbing (often one or two hives in a yard will be responsible for most of the trouble), the

robbed hive and the robbing hive may be transposed. This so confuses the robbers that they are completely bewildered, and give the whole business up. But the best cure is prevention. Watch for the slackening of the honey-flow, and keep all honey out of reach of the prowlers, or "snoopers," as I have heard them called. Small colonies and nuclei should have their entrances contracted to a safe size before a robber tries to get in. Kitchen doors and windows should be screened, and nothing containing sugar thrown out where the bees can get it. And keep the honey-house bee-tight, or you may find your pets indulging in a Cobalt rush some fine day. If necessary to open a hive, do the work as quickly as possible, and don't leave a comb out of the hive longer than is absolutely necessary. If many robbers come buzzing about the open top of the hive, and fighting begins—you will know when that time comes, whether you ever saw it before or not—close up the hive and wait until things quiet down, unless you have a bee-tent to set over yourself and the hive while working. A tent is a nuisance to work in, but is sometimes a necessity, and every apiary needs one.

Fenelon Falls, Ont.

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## Honey Vinegar

I believe that a great many beekeepers might very profitably engage in the manufacture of honey vinegar, at least to the extent of working up their waste and off-grades of honey. I know that many have tried it without satisfactory results, and have given it