

One man wintered one swarm and has taken therefrom 120 lbs. of extracted honey and two swarms, leaving him with three strong swarms of bees, from which, if the season keeps favorable, he expects to extract more from. Can anyone beat this?

The prospects for fall flow are fairly good, flowers of almost all kinds are plentiful, and we are having an occasional shower which makes things boom.

W. J. SMITH.

Monticello, Ont.

In this case we belong to the "I-told-you-so" class, for we expected a turn of the tide after the unusually long drouth. You have undoubtedly done better than many, but you do not ascribe it to the fall flow. Crops of red clover have yielded well in some places, but from our knowledge of your locality we judge it hard to beat for fall honey. The swamp bush and marsh lands at this season of the year afford excellent foraging ground for the workers. Let all who have reports as encouraging send them in to brighten the hopes of those who, in their despair, talk of giving up.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

Notes from Valley Apiary, Indiana.

I S I have been practising the contraction of the brood nest for new swarms for the production of comb honey this season, very nearly the same as given in Mr. Hutchinson's little book, I will try and give my experience of the same. I commenced with 19 stands of bees, 10 L frames to the hive, most of which were good and strong and with which I expected to do a land office business, unless the flowers failed to furnish the nectar which would change the programme. During apple and raspberry bloom I put on the sections and when the clover came in, which was about swarming time or the first of June, I took the crates of sections off the old and put them on the new hives. These new hives were contracted to five L frames with starters of foundation about half an inch wide with a wood and zinc queen excluder over the frames. I now took 12 of my best queens and put one in each new hive, shook three-quarters of the bees belonging to each queen in with her, took the balance of the queens out of the rest of the old hives and put three-quarters of their bees in with the former drive. This left the old stands queenless, and in two or three days I gave them a ripe queen cell. My idea of practising artificial swarming in this way was to give them

queen cells from my best breeding queens, for I believe our honey crop depends on the queen to quite an extent. This made the new colonies quite strong, equal to about one and a half natural swarm to each hive, and I found that when the five brood frames were nearly built out the bees made preparations to swarm, that is the most of them did. I then took brood combs from the old stands enough to build them up to eight combs, giving the queens more room to lay and they nearly all soon got over the swarming fever, as it is called. As to the amount of honey up to date, we have taken off 638 one pound sections of honey, all white, from clover, basswood and button or elbow willow. This is a poor season for honey in this part of the country—much worse than last year. Last season we managed our bees nearly the same way; commenced with seven eight frame hives, increased to sixteen and took over 700 one lb. sections. One word for the wood and zinc honey boards—they have come to stay, I think; anyway at the Valley Apiary.

C. A. BUNCH.

La Paz, Ind., Aug. 23.

IS BEE-KEEPING PROFITABLE?

MY crop of honey raised during the season of 1887, says G. M. Doolittle in *Rural Home*, was most of it sent to commission merchants, as I was not able to find a sale for it at prices which I thought it ought to sell for; hence the present time finds me with the last returns which closes out my crop. After placing the amount of the last sale on my ledger it was but natural that I should look over the debit and credit columns to see what my bees have paid me for my season's labor. After figuring up the whole receipts, and deducting the expense incurred by bees therefrom, I find I have an average profit of \$20.33 for each colony I had in the spring as cash receipts, free of all expense, except my labor. Thus it will be seen if a person can care for 100 colonies of bees (and it is done by many of our practical apiarists) this would give an income of \$2,033 a year. But to be on the safe side suppose we call it 50 colonies, thus giving a salary of \$1,016.50. The season of 1887 was no better than an average one for bees in this locality, which being a fact it would not be unreasonable to say that the above might be an average yearly income from bees for any person engaged in apiculture. As proof that the above is not overdrawn, I will say that I have cleared on an average over \$1000 from my bees each year for the past 14 years, with an average of less than 50 colonies each year. Don't understand me