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Notes and Comments

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The Crop for 1907.

The harvest has come and gone, and as far as our immediate district is concerned, results are of a disappointing nature. While the majority of the colonies in many places were not prepared to take advantage of the flow when it came, this was not the case with our own bees, which were in splendid condition for the flow—that never came. The crop never looked fair, and weather, as far as we could understand, was for some time the ideal, yet withal, with 100 acres of clover like within a mile and a half of the colonies, bees would rob almost any time during clover bloom. The only reason we can ascribe for failure of nectar collection is lack of moisture. But little rain fell previous to or during clover bloom, and towards the middle of August everything was parched. In other years, however, I have secured good crops when no more moisture was present than was the case this season. A peculiar feature of the season was that there was just enough nectar and pollen (principally the latter) in the fields to entice the bees to the fields. On bright warm days the bees would be flying around the yard in a regular way, but if a heavy cloud came

over they would come rushing in by the thousands. This continued "seeking" and little "getting" seemed to wear the bees out three times as fast as in a good honey-flow, and although the hives were at all times full of brood, at the present time (Aug. 1) the colonies are not as populous as they were at opening of the clover flow. Oh, well, "it might have been worse," as we have secured 25 pounds per colony, bees are in good condition, and, as far as actual numbers are concerned, we have exactly as many colonies as at this time last year. With favorable weather there should be enough buckwheat gathered for winter stores, but with us buckwheat, like basswood, is not to be depended on.

Vitality of Queen's Eggs.

While in conversation with one of our well-known bee-keepers the other day, I was much astonished at a statement made relative to the vitality of the queen's eggs. He claimed that if a comb was inserted in the brood-nest in the fall, when the queen was yet laying, and then taken out again as soon as eggs had been deposited, that these eggs would develop the following spring if the comb was put in a hive again.

The comb could be stored any old place, as a zero temperature would not hurt the eggs in the least. I confess to being much surprised at the claim; in fact, I was inclined to scout the idea as preposterous, and had my informant been a novice instead of