

The honey crop has been a very poor one here in Muskoka. Although the bees gathered surplus honey forthwith in May, clover gave no surplus at all, the bees would not even look at the clover bloom and by the time basswood came in flower, July 22nd, they used what stores they had gathered. Basswood yielded well, but did not last very long, a scorching heat wilted the flowers. We have had here, as far as my observation goes, three years in succession a fair yield of basswood honey. After basswood bloom was over, the bees gathered no more surplus honey; thistle and fall flowers gave none. All in all I got 40 pounds of surplus honey per colony spring count.

The scarcity of the honey crop did not prevent the bees from swarming, on the contrary, it induced them rather to swarm, and it is strange to say, they were more inclined to take to the woods this year, then to cluster on the trees in the garden; half a dozen of men could not keep them, they would go. I lost three swarms that way, but found one of them which had issued on the 14th of June. They had but 6 or 7 pounds of honey late in August when I took them home, and I fear we will not have many wild bees in the bush here if all did not gather more honey than these. I could not prevent after swarming altogether, but provided some "long idea" hives for the occasion. In one of them I hived four after swarms on 15 frames, they built and filled those frames chock full of honey and gave me 20 pounds of comb honey. Not so bad for the "long idea" hive.

By selling several swarms and colonies (stocks) and uniting as much as possible, I found myself in the fall with 28 colonies. Having but room in my cellar for 27 and no immediate sale for another colony, I resorted to the now most dispirited plan of brimstoning them, and think it under certain circumstances the best method of disposing of surplus bees. I say under certain circumstances, because I think I lost nothing by brimstoning them as the following bill as an offset will show: One complete Jones hive at the place, \$2; 10 brood combs, \$2; 30 pounds of winter stores, \$3; packing for shipment, 50 cts.; hiring vehicle to bring them to the nearest express office 7 miles distant, \$1.50. Had I even had the chance of obtaining the highest price for them in the spring it would have left me very little for my trouble, to say nothing of the risk of wintering.

By the middle of September I commenced to prepare my bees for winter. I raised the combs from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches and I commenced feeding those colonies that needed it. I mixed granulated sugar with honey, half and half, and think it good winter stores. I did not crowd the bees

up very much, but left them from 8 to 9 combs, except the colony in the "long idea" hive which has 15 combs. The two previous winters I wintered on 9, 10 and 11 combs. I think it of little consequence how many combs bees have to winter upon provided all other conditions are right. November 28th, I carried the 27 colonies in the cellar and although the most of them are old bees I have every hope of getting them safe through the winter. Last winter I wintered without chaff cushions and without any loss; this winter I left the chaff cushions on and will note the difference and report in due time. Temperature in the cellar 47° to 50° so far. My cellar is very damp, but I open the cellar door every evening a little while, that keeps the air sweet; of course the cellar door opens into the kitchen where a stove keeps the room warm.

E. SCHULTZ.

Lethbridge, Muskoka, Jan. 8th, 1886.

What! brimstone in a civilized community. We are astonished. Please do not let us hear of any more brimstoning. It would have been better to have taken the bees and distributed them among the other colonies, as by so doing you would have strengthened your weak colonies and saved your bees. According to your showing you appear to be about as well off financially as if you had sold them; but had you doubled them up with other colonies you would have been that much better off still.

Wallaceburg Valley Herald and Record.

ADULTERATED HONEY.

MR. HUMPHREY TELLS US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT THE HONEY BUSINESS.

IN your last issue you have clipped an article from the Philadelphia Times regarding the manufacturing of Comb Honey to which I kindly call general attention. It does seem to me most ridiculous that the editor of the above named paper should publish such a sensational newspaper canard, from the fact that he claims comb is made and filled with glucose, all of which is done by machinery. It is also represented that the honey bee is cheated out of his business.

In the first place I would wish to say that there has never been a machine made that would complete a comb into which honey or glucose may be filled, much less to finish the capping of the cells. It is true, nevertheless, that we make foundation comb by prepared dipping boards which are dipped into a vat of melted beeswax to make the wax sheet. These