

MAY.

Colonies that are in good condition boom along this month at a great pace. Any hive that on May 1st shows bees occupying all spaces between frames is in fine condition, and should be given a second brood chamber above the first.

Early in the month one must attend to weak colonies if possible. If the lack of numbers is due to a failing queen, the bees may endeavour to supersede her during fruit-bloom, or she may disappear from the hive. Queens raised in a weak colony at this time are of very little value, and are almost sure to be supplanted again in June or July, provided they live that long. There is also great risk that they will fail to mate on account of the cool weather. The writer has had queens hatched out in the end of April and do all right, but the instance is rather unusual. Most bee-keepers have little use for a queen that is not raised during the normal swarming season, or in the time of the honey-flow.

In districts where soft and vine maples abound it should be possible to get 40 or 50 lb. of surplus honey if colonies are strong.



Fig. 21. A picturesque apiary. F. E. White, North Vancouver.

As fruit-blossoms cease there is often a dearth of nectar the last week of the month; in fact, up until the honey-flow starts, and unless feeding be resorted to, the colonies will dwindle rather than increase. Where broom grows there is no lack of pollen. The Dry Belt seems to be fortunate enough to have no break once nectar begins to come in.

JUNE.

This is the great swarming month. Very strong colonies may send out a swarm in the early part of the month, but most will start near the commencement of the honey-flow. The new colony has to build a set of combs, raise thousands of bees, and provide stores for the winter; hence the best time to start housekeeping in a new locality is when nectar is coming in freely.

In most parts of this continent June is the month of the honey-flow, but in British Columbia clover rarely yields until about the end of the month. The first few days the bees will deposit the nectar in the brood-chamber, filling every vacant cell just as fast as they become empty through the hatching of brood. Then comes the capping of the honey. This is the time to put on supers, and is indicated by