

energy than black bees. To rouse them from the winter quiet—a state they are then approaching—part or all of the brood combs are removed and sheets of foundation put in their places. The desire for a winter's supply of honey and the work on the foundation stimulates the bees' energies to the utmost, and as fast as combs are drawn out and filled they may be extracted and returned and again extracted as often as filled. By removing what is gathered often, the bees are kept at work as long as the flow continues. In this way one hundred pounds per colony have been obtained where but few hives are kept. As this draws out the vitality of a colony and calls forth energy that would have been available in the spring, it may be wise to strengthen such colonies before wintering, unless they have an abundance of young bees.

Rev. J. W. Shearer of Tennessee once commenced in the spring with one colony, increased to five and extracted five hundred pounds of Aster honey, besides leaving a full supply in each hive for winter.

In this location, this honey, as a rule, is not obtained except in brood combs, and as it is excellent for winter stores, is allowed to remain. My Cook apiary is where there is much run-out land grown up to weeds and brush. Here Golden Rod and Asters are very plenty. Being on a hill where it is rather bleak, a board fence was built on all sides; with this protection they venture out many times, when if the hive were exposed to the strong wind they would remain inside. It is also high and dry and frosts hold off until late. Here bees have never failed to get enough late honey for winter stores.

At the beginning of the flow last fall the colonies were almost without stores but very populous. All brood combs not containing brood were removed, leaving from four to six combs two-thirds full of brood, nearly all of which was capped. The vacant space in the brood chambers was filled with dummies and surplus boxes containing drawn-out combs placed above, the hive covered with chaff cushions and the entrance made rather small. After a hard frost I examined them and found that nearly all had from 12 to 20 pounds of honey in section boxes, two-thirds of which were nicely sealed, the remainder uncapped and but partly filled. The brood combs were solid with honey, with the exception of a space for bees to cluster in the centre combs. The honey from the Golden Rod coming first, most of it was stored below in the room made by the fast hatching brood. The flow from Asters came after, and

as the space below was mostly filled, much of this was stored above.

The honey in some boxes nearest to the center of the cluster was two-thirds Golden Rod with Aster honey about the edges, and was thick, well filled and finished; that farther away was clear Aster honey, nicely finished and very clear and handsome; that farthest from the cluster was poorly filled, unsealed and thin. The wax cappings at this time are quite yellow from the pollen in the wax. Had I given less room in the brood nest and frequent attention, I should have secured less honey below and more in boxes, but the colonies would have needed more stores for winter.

The result shows that the obstacles in the way of producing this honey in the comb may be overcome. It also shows what is possible in a better season or in a still better locality. Although less in amount will be taken in boxes than in the extracted form, it will be worth more money.

C. E. Watts, of Rumney, N. H., in 1886 increased from one colony to six and obtained over one hundred pounds of honey, mostly comb, all but about twenty-five pounds of which was gathered after Golden Rod blossomed. Others in Virginia, Maine and the West have done as well.

If but one or two brood frames or foundations are allowed below and a few sections of drawn-out comb above, and as fast as finished are removed and replaced by others, a large number may be secured. There is little danger of the queen laying in sections at this season. The proper amount of space below and above to get the best work and all the pollen below instead of above in boxes, will be learned by experience. At this season boxes of drawn-out combs should always be used instead of foundations.

A late-reared queen will have considerable brood late in the season at a time when there is usually little or no e. This is a great help to force the honey above, and if the bees of another Italian colony are united to these, success will depend only upon the weather and the secretion of nectar. Aster honey is a pale amber very bright and clear, and in flavor is delicious. That from Golden Rod is thick, darker and strongest in flavor. When extracted it is generally obtained mixed. Both have a rank, weedy odor when first gathered. When the summer flow has yielded no surplus, I believe it will pay to secure this late crop in comb, even if all colonies have to be given sugar stores for winter. The latter should be stored and sealed in warm weather and be ready to give when the other is removed. Instead of following this plan extensively, it may be best, in your locality, to try it the first season with but one or two colonies.

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