

To-day we extracted 2,000 pounds of honey at the Altona yard, and for the first time tried the capping melter. We have voted the arrangement a success, and it certainly is a source of satisfaction to have the cappings all out of the road when operations for the day are over, and unless something should change our minds, we shall treat all our cappings this way in the future. The melting tank was made by a local tinsmith, and the heat was furnished by a small gasoline stove that cost less than \$5.00. Some have thought that the machine would make the honey-house very warm, but we could not notice it whatever; in fact, would not have known the fire was there if had simply to judge by the state of the temperature. From our limited experience we are convinced that these melters will be used almost universally in the near future, as the advantages are many, and so far we have not located many disadvantages.

As to the matter of willows, as stated in the "Journal," I do not know the botanical names of the many different varieties, which are all good honey-producers, and we designate them as the green, yellow and golden willows. These names are given because of the color of the leaves in the early spring, when the trees are in blossom. They bloom in the order that I have named them, but there is only a difference of about a week between the green and golden varieties, the latter being the latest. The yellow kind is by far the best honey-yielder, and it is very common here in York County around mill-dams, where it has been planted to help hold the embankments from being washed away. The tree is extremely easy to propagate, all that is necessary being to break off nice straight branches an inch or so in diameter, and stick them down in the ground about a foot in the early spring. Trees started that way here at a bridge within a few rods of my home only a few years ago are now great trees two feet or more

in diameter. Of course, they do best in a damp location, especially near running water, but the large yellow willow will grow all right in drier locations.

THE BASSWOOD TREE

For the benefit of our readers, one of whom makes an inquiry in this issue, we give the following information regarding the Linden, or Basswood Tree: It is a genus of trees (*Tilia*) of the order *Tiliaceæ*, ordinarily known as basswoods in this country. The species, of which there are about a dozen, are natives of the northern temperate zone, and more or less resemble each other in general appearance. They are characterized by alternate, usually heart-shaped, leaves, with toothed edges; small yellowish, often fragrant, flowers in cymes; the peduncles of which are attached to membranous bracts; and globular, nut-like fruits about the size of peas. The trees in many horticultural varieties are widely planted in Europe, where they are known to the English as limes, and have been introduced into America for their pleasing form and dense shade, and to some extent also because of their abundant yield of nectar, from which bees make one of the finest qualities of honey. They are also planted for their timber, usually called "whitewood," which is highly valued on account of its whiteness, lightness, toughness and durability, and is used for turned and curved ornaments, and for making honey-boxes and other light articles, the whiteness of which is desired to enhance the appearance of the goods they contain; also extensively used for carriage bodies, cabinet work, and interior parts of furniture. It makes a high grade of charcoal, used by druggists, gunpowder-makers and artists. The fibrous inner bark is made into mats and cordage, and strips of it are widely used for tying plants, etc. When stock food is scarce in early spring the twigs and budding shoots are often fed to farm

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