

were plentiful and filled with basswood, that grand honey tree now almost extinct, and while droughts were frequent, these forests retained moisture and also sheltered and protected our most valuable honey plant, the clover.

Now new and undesirable conditions prevail. Prices of honey have declined. Forests have been cleared away. Droughts are all too common, and our clover is frequently winter killed which makes the production of honey a more uncertain and less desirable occupation. Honey crop failures occur with but too frequent regularity until the apiarist with 80 to 100 colonies, depending on them for a living, finds himself "poor indeed," and must of necessity turn his hand to something else that will combine with bee-keeping and aid him in making a fair living, or at least in helping to keep the wolf from the door. Fruit farming, poultry and other things have been tried with varied success, but almost invariably to the detriment of the honey bee and the loss or sacrifice of the honey crop.

This seems to be an age of specialists, and our thought, time, and attention must be concentrated upon one thing to make the greatest success possible of it. This can only be done and the above noted conditions met by increasing the number of colonies, so as to make provision in the fat years against possible lean ones. But the difficult part is to tell you how to do it, and a saying I've heard comes to me and seems quite appropriate. It is "The more I know, the more I know I know the less," and so I venture to give help to this new hopeful field with fear and trembling. To commence with, our apiaries should be within driving distance and yet three or four miles apart. A suitable yard with buildings adjoining,

and cellar if possible must be found, if with friends who will take a kindly interest and prevent molestation, all the better.

The uncertainty of honey crops and the difficulty of securing competent help at the right time makes it desirable that some system of management be adopted that will not require constant attendance of anyone in the apiary. We must therefore clip all queens to prevent absconding swarms, while we bring all means in our knowledge and power to bear on the prevention of swarming, which is advantageous in any case, whether one yard or more are kept.

The first step toward this end might be to have young queens of a non-swarming strain (if such exist), or at least chosen for their virtue in that direction.

The second step might be to equalize all colonies in fruit bloom, checking the strong and helping the weak so as to have all as nearly as possible in the same condition, so that a yard can be manipulated together, all supered at the same time, extracted the same time, etc.

The cause of swarming, as far as I understand, is the natural instinct of the bee when crowded and a honey flow on; so that it will be seen that the third step would be to anticipate their condition and wants and provide room before they feel that they are crowded. This necessitates having plenty of combs ready; two sets for each hive will be found convenient and almost necessary. The first supers may be put on at the close of the fruit bloom if our bees are reasonably strong, and the second one shortly after the clover flow starts and before the first are nearly full. All hives ought to be blocked up from the bottom board to allow ventilation, either using a wedge or blocks behind. Shade trees will be found