

If the prospective specialist has found a place like I have described, he need have no fear of the results, providing, however, he does his part well. But it should be remembered, however, that in a large apiary it requires a considerable area of a certain honey plant to produce surplus honey in paying quantities. In this connection we might examine the character of the soil. I do not wish to be regarded as out of the ordinary, but by close observation I have found that the character of the soil has nearly as much influence on the flow of honey as the state of the weather, notwithstanding the frequent assertion by good authority that climatic conditions control the flow of honey. Take, for example, white clover. I have found that on calcareous and clay loam soils it yields much better than on gravelly soils, and under conditions when on gravelly soils it does not yield at all. The same is true of sandy loam underlaid with limestone. It would, therefore, be well for the bee-keeper to take the character of the soil into consideration when selecting a location for his apiary.

The next important factor is the kind of bees. Much has been said about a general purpose bee, but as that race of bees does not exist, we shall have to confine our selection to the varieties that we have at present. I have tried several of the different strains, but have settled down to the conclusion that if I were located where clover is the main honey plant I would prefer the pure three-banded Italian. But as I am located in a part of the State where large quantities of buckwheat are grown, and clover is plentiful, I prefer a direct cross of Italians with the black, or German, for the Italians do not work well on buckwheat. By crossing them we have a bee that will work on buckwheat as well as on clover. I do not wish it to be understood that I keep all hybrids—far from it. I always buy and try to raise pure Italian queens. But I keep all queens that mate with black drones, and their colonies nearly

always pile up more supers of honey than the pure Italians do. Therefore the selection of the race of bees best adapted to the bee-keeper's location depends somewhat upon the kind of honey plants found in that section.

Much of the bee-keeper's success depends also on the kind of hive used. But I shall omit to mention a choice of hive in the fear of getting on somebody's corns. Suffice it to say that the bee-keeper should use a modern, up-to-date hive. After a crop of honey has been secured, it seems to me that time and money should not be wasted in shipping it away to the large cities to be sold, when it could all be disposed of near home by the apiarist himself by working up honey routes. Thus the transportation charges and commission could be saved. Another big item to help swell the bee-keeper's pocketbook. Establishing honey routes in a new territory is up-hill work for a time, but you will soon get all the customers that you are able to supply, as your product becomes better and more favorably known. Only a few years will pass until you will have no need to peddle honey, as your customers will send in their orders to your home or come and get their supply. This is my experience along that line.

I believe that every large bee-keeper should make his own foundation, and by so doing one-half the outlay of cash for foundation could be saved. It does seem to me a waste of money to sell our wax for 25c per pound, and turn around and pay more than double that for foundation. By the possession of foundation mills, with a warm room to work in, it could all be made at home during the winter. We would then have nice fresh foundation for the bees to work on, and no time lost by them trying to soften some old hard foundation in the height of a heavy honey flow, when time means money. In the disposal of his honey, the manufacture of wax into foundation, getting sections, hives and supers ready for the next season, lies the partial solution