

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## THE HONEY SEASON IN NORTHERN IOWA

**A**NOTHER season has closed. "The harvest is passed, the summer is ended" so far as the bee-keeper is concerned. We are now able to look around, take account of stock and estimate our profits or our losses for the year. The season in this part of the world has not been a model one for the honey producer, and yet those who manipulated the little fellows skilfully have something to show for their summer's work. The forepart of the season was wet, cold and unfavorable for honey secretion and honey gathering. Basswood yielded fairly well, and most of the white honey secured was from that source. Scarcely anything was got from white clover. Fall flowers bid fair to give us a nice surplus, but just at what would have been the height of the season for this crop, we had two weeks or more of exceedingly cold and wet weather,—so much so that scarcely a bee left the hive. Of course while they are not producers they are consumers. The consequence was we had more unfinished sections than we counted on.

I began the season with 18 colonies; increased to 32 and have 1366 pounds of honey—829 extracted and 537 comb. This season I have used mostly, the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches white poplar sections, and the case method for comb honey. I think I shall continue to use the narrow sections. They average about three-quarters of a pound, look very neat, are finished faster and better by the bees, and sell to better advantage, than the two inch sections. The largest yield this season, was from an eight frame Heddon hive that did not swarm. That colony finished, in pretty good shape, 180 of these small sections, which retail at fifteen cents each. I use, not only the Heddon hive, but the Simplicity, and another one of my own make, about the size of the Heddon eight frame hive for comb honey and cellar wintering, and don't like the ten frame Simplicity, with metal corners and rabbets.

I have not extracted close. Think the bees have an abundance for winter. Have not fed a pound of sugar this year. Don't believe in it if it can be avoided. If we want the products of our apiaries to go to the consumers without suspicion we must cease to buy sugar by the dray-load. When sugar comes in at the gate by the barrel and honey goes out the same way, it will take a good deal of Christian living on the part of the bee-keeper to make all the people of his neighborhood believe that nothing but the nectar from the flowers is sold. Besides if the juice of the sugar cane were the only proper winter food for bees, this would, in the wise arrangements of

Providence, have been one of the principal honey plants. If the bees are starving, of course they should be fed; but to extract all the honey in the Fall, and then feed back sugar syrup to winter on, is, I think, not only useless, but detrimental to the best interests of the bee-keeper, for the reasons before mentioned.

EUGENE SECOR.

Forest City, Iowa, Oct. 19, 1885.

You are quite right about the bees filling narrow sections much faster than the broad ones. Any one who uses the former and gives them a fair trial, side by side with the latter will have little difficulty in deciding which they will use for all time to come. In our opinion sections an inch and a half wide will produce more dollars and cents for the bee-keeper than wide ones. We feed sugar syrup every year and have no trouble in satisfying everybody that our honey is pure either. The more we educate the consumers in regard to the management of bees the easier it will be to sell our crop, and the more confidence they will have in us.

## THE CANADIAN BEE PAPER.

**G**ENTS.—Your captious question, as to who were the publishers of the Canadian Bee Paper, is received. You are, doubtless, aware that it is published by yourselves. As there is no other bee-paper published in Canada, why is it not quite correct to speak of it as the Canadian bee-paper? We invariably speak of the *A. B. J.* as "the oldest bee-paper (or periodical) in America"!

Is it any worse to enumerate the Canadian bee-paper in our clubbing list, than for you to enumerate the "Texas Bee Keeper" in your clubbing list? That Texas bee-paper has been dead for three months and never was called by that name! "Those who live in glass houses should never throw stones," is a good old adage.

We have none but the best of feelings towards you and your paper, but you must "excuse us" from approving of your use of a name without permission which has cost us thousands of dollars.

Yours truly,,

THOS. G. NEWMAN &amp; SON.

On page 472, stated that we had written the publishers of the *A. B. J.* for the name of the publishers of the