

ages, cost of boxing, etc. This makes a probable profit of \$4 per colony, spring count.

This estimate is taken in a general way. It is impossible to make an absolutely reliable estimate of any farm crop, and the bees are not an exception to this. But if we take the reports of wheat acreage and number of bushels reported, we will come to a very fair knowledge of the entire crop of the wheat-producing farms, and, in the same way, the product of the bee is very nearly estimated.

A practical apiarist who makes bee-culture his business can easily take care of 200 colonies of bees in producing comb honey, and of twice that number, or more, in the production of extracted honey. And if he is wide awake, and does not manufacture his own hives, and manages to take a little cheap help at the opening of the season, he may be able to teach school during the winter, for five or six months, at least, during the time when the bees are not busy. An occasional Saturday will be sufficient to keep informed as to the condition of the apiary, whether wintered in the cellar or on the summer stands. If the man "grows" with his business, the outlay need not be very great, as the original cost of a few colonies of bees and that of the empty hives is a very unimportant capital. An industrious man will rear his own queens, and may even rear some for sale. Then he may sell a few bees, a colony here and there. The careful saving of all the broken pieces of comb, burr-combs, drone-combs, and cappings, ought very nearly to pay for what comb foundation is needed. There are very few lines of business—except perhaps chicken raising—where so few implements are needed. But poultry-raising is not to be compared with bee-

culture. The fowls need constant attention. They have to be fed daily. The bees feed themselves, except in unfortunate cases.

And yet there are many drawbacks—winter losses, spring dwindling, wet seasons. Our grandfathers used to count the bee-moth among the drawbacks. We have outgrown that. But foul brood seems to be more prevalent than formerly, though I must say that personally I have never seen a case of it. But the worst drawback of all comes from the possible neglect, or greediness, of the apiarist. Of all lines of stock-raising none requires more careful watching than bee-culture. "Know what is to be done, and do it in time," is the most important motto of a successful apiarist.

But if you do not love to care for little things—to go into details, to watch the bees at work and keep an eye on their actions; if, above all, you are afraid of your bees, and cannot find pleasure in opening a hive full of bees and taking it to pieces for examination or for show; if you do not care to read a bee-book and get informed on the exact habits of these toilers, you would best keep out of bee-keeping.

My advice to a beginner who wants to become practical would be to go slowly. If he can find a position with a bee-keeper, who can give him a season or two of practice, this would be of great value. But such positions are hard to find. If you have to gather your information on your own responsibility, have half a dozen colonies more or less, and try to increase the numbers by following the methods most recommended in the books. A few years will give you more information on how successful you can be with bees than could be imparted in a dozen articles on the subject. *American Bee Journal.*