

in question, quite a number of the hives with the very small entrances were completely closed up with ice, and on opening these entrances with a jack-knife bees were found in most instances to be quite uneasy, a considerable number flying out, although the weather was quite cold. Anyhow, whether from force of habit, or call it what you will, I at once proceeded to enlarge those entrances.

Mr. Miller of London, if I remember correctly, admitted that he found it necessary to clean out entrances occasionally, when they were closely contracted, and I have no doubt but that he succeeds splendidly in outdoor wintering. Nevertheless, I cannot help but think that bee-keepers will err on the safe side by giving quite generous entrances rather than to contract to as small a space as recommended by some.

Buckwheat as a Honey-yielder.

Only recently Mr. Arthur Laing appealed to some leading bee-keepers for information relative to the honey-yielding qualities of buckwheat. As far as I have noticed, up to date, he has not received much information, at least through the columns of the apicultural press. In common with friend Laing, the writer, too, has been doing a lot of thinking about buckwheat; particularly so lately, as in the past two seasons considerable has been grown in our locality. While I have known for some time that buckwheat is a much surer and heavier yielder along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, than in the interior, yet I had no idea that different varieties of soils would affect the yield, as appears to be the case.

In our locality the soil varies from a heavy to light clay loam, one yard being close to a large tract of sandy loam in addition, at one side. All our soil

is practically free from limestone. In Victoria county, to the north of us and further inland, much the same quality of soil prevails as with us, with this difference, that they have a plentiful supply of limestone both in subsoil and in the form of gravel mixed with the clay loam. One year with another, with the same acreage, buckwheat in Victoria county will yield 1,000 pounds of honey to every 100 pounds here in York county.

Whether the limestone is the factor that causes the difference or not is of course only a conjecture on my part, but can any one else give a more plausible explanation? However, we are very thankful to have buckwheat grown near us, even if it don't yield like it does in some other localities. This year I feel safe in saying that my 250 colonies went into winter quarters with fully 10,000 pounds of buckwheat honey in brood nest; in fact, I have been wondering if I have not overdone the matter a little. But as I just read a few weeks ago how so good a bee-keeper as Mr. Townsend of Michigan had the supers taken off all hives during first ten days of the buckwheat flow, allowing the bees to thoroughly pack the brood-nest with honey I am consoling myself that things will turn out O.K., as that is the very thing I happened to do the past season.

Only last week (Dec. 15th), while at the Cashel yard, I lifted up very quietly the sawdust packing and quilts on about 20 hives. In every case clusters were half-way down those deep frames, and in most cases occupying all the spaces in the 10-frame hives. On top all that could be seen was sealed combs of honey, and my cause of alarm was that probably queens were unduly restricted for breeding during latter part of August and first half of September. Well, I am not going to lose any sleep over the matter and

hope to be able to do something on.

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