

When the earliest white settlers reached the shores of America no honey bees were found, it not being a native of this continent.

Just when, and by whom, the first colony of black or German bees were brought to America, it is difficult to say. Some authorities say about the seventeenth century. These black bees were formerly kept in America in cylinders of bark, with a board on top, and in England in the old straw skip so typical of early English bee-keeping. It was not until 1850 that the Rev. Mr. Langstroth, of Butler County, Ohio, U.S.A., invented the movable-frame hive which has so revolutionized apiculture. Previous to this date the bees built their combs just as their natural instinct prompted them—about one inch apart from centre to centre, and attaching them to all parts of the receptacle in which the bees were placed. The next advance was the placing of slats in the top of the extemporized hive, to which the bees built their comb; but with the invention of the movable frame, in which the bees could build their comb and allow of its being moved from the hive and examined, came the great incentive to study the natural history of this wonderful insect, and turn its labors to valuable account, bringing apiculture up to its present high position as a science and commercial importance.

It was not until 1859 that the Italian bee was imported to this continent from Europe, and which has now entirely superseded the black or German bee, which by the escaped swarms and natural increase has become the wild bee of America. The Italians are far superior to the black, and when first introduced were highly valued, as much as \$20 being paid for a laying queen; now quite as good can be bought for \$1, but she will be raised in America from imported mothers.

You will notice that it is just forty years since the introduction of the Italian, and the honey harvested at that time

was small indeed. Now it has grown to immense proportions, and I shall quote you a few figures from the report of the United States Department of Agriculture:

Apiarian societies in United States	110
Apiarian journals	8
Steam factories for the manufacture of hives, etc.	15
Number of pounds of honey produced in 1869	14,702,815
Number of pounds of honey produced in 1889	63,894,186
Persons engaged in bee culture ..	300,000
Honey and wax value (wholesale)	\$7,000,000
Germany—	
Number of colonies of bees... ..	1,910,000
Number of pounds of honey produced annually	14,800,000
Spain—	
Number of colonies of bees... ..	1,030,000
Number of pounds of honey produced annually	22,500,000
France—	
Number of colonies of bees... ..	950,000
Number of pounds of honey produced annually	20,500,000
Average per colony	
Germany	7½ lbs
Spain	21 lbs
France	21½ lbs

I will now commence with the inmates of the hive and trace them from the egg to matured insects.

A colony of bees is normally composed of a queen, from ten to forty thousand workers, and, in the swarming season, from a few to many hundred drones; and sometimes under abnormal conditions a fourth party is tolerated, known as a fertile worker. The queen is the only perfectly developed female in the hive, and lays all the eggs which produce the workers or undeveloped females, the drones or males, and the queens which are to supersede her. In this insect we

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I wish the C. sible. It certain since passing i value for mone now. Sentimen in these days of no reason, while give as good, ahead of requir doing of late, w broad Canada of ually reduce the erican journals, As regards bee think it must n country (B.C.) i ing lands patchy ered with bush. no native trees lasswood of Ont letting contracts of land on this will follow here, places; but just a few favored place profitable. No di accomplished whe for the would-be erland, Russia, British Bee-keeper county asocation respective countri spoken to our De culture on the sub Victoria seek aid with the bees fro nothing has been information been g has been given should see more h country. I shall be makin ive exhibit at our sible. I had into