

even with the contraction there will be more or less of it. For this reason it is advisable to use full sheets, and for large swarms eight frames of such are none too many to hive on when running for comb honey. If my colonies were weak and swarms small I would not hesitate to put two of them together in the new hive with eight frames of foundation, and from such a colony, with plenty of room for the queen, and no swarming out the second time, there will be a bigger profit than if each small swarm were hived separately in a contracted brood nest.

There is another objection to the contracted brood nest that becomes serious as the number of our colonies multiply, and that is the work of going through the recently-hived swarms for the purpose of taking out part of the frames and replacing them with dummies, and again after the honey flow taking out the dummies and putting back frames in their place. The work in a fair-sized yard is enormously increased if we must be constantly tinkering with the brood nest. In the spring, before the honey flow is on, it is profitable to go through the yard and make use of every little kink we know of in order to build up colonies to their maximum strength, but when the flow commences there is plenty of work with the swarms and supers to keep our time fully occupied.

In many localities the flow shuts off as soon as the clover and basswood is through blooming, and it is only in favorable years that the fall flow is sufficient to keep the bees from drawing on their stores for late brood-rearing. With such conditions, it is evident that winter stores must be secured from the white honey flow, and unless part of the yard has been put to filling frames to supply the rest in the fall, our only recourse is the sugar barrel. Under these conditions we

might just as well have a few frames filled out in the brood chambers while the flow is on, so as to supply them from supers.

Big swarms mean fast work in the supers, and if we are unable to build up our colonies so that the hives are crowded with bees from top to bottom, then it is always possible to unite two weak colonies, so that their combined forces will hustle the honey into the supers much faster than they would have done had they been hived separately, and if our swarms are strong—very strong—it will be found that eight Langstroth frames filled from top to bottom with foundation are none too many in the hive body, and that a colony so fixed, and with a good queen, will go ahead with the work in the supers at a surprising rate, and, having plenty of room below, will go into winter quarters stronger in bees and require less feeding than one that has been contracted down.

It is claimed by the contracted brood chamber advocates that every pound of white honey should go into the super if possible, and that we should depend upon sugar syrup for winter stores, but I have found feeding this syrup very unsatisfactory, not because it does not make good winter food, but because of the tremendous labor involved in feeding, and because in a large yard it is next to impossible to tell when each colony has had enough. There is nothing better than full combs of honey for this purpose, and a generous supply of these given in the fall will have a big influence on next season's crop.

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"Canadian Bee Journal" and the "Western Home Monthly" (Winnipeg), clubbed, one year, \$1. The "Western Home Monthly" is one of the brightest magazines published in our Dominion.