

OUT APIARIES. — PROFIT AND LOSS.

(Fifth Article.)

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It is said that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread," so I am thinking, Mr. Editor, that it would have been much more in place could we have had articles dealing with this subject from some of the "big guns" who have out-apiaries almost by the dozen. We take it for granted that they are managed entirely different from anything I have described. What I have written refers only in a small way to an apiary at home or abroad without natural swarms. Those who are engaged with other pursuits can manage a small apiary by these ways and still attend to their regular business. I would say, however, that frequently in bee-keeping, as with the weather, "all signs fail," so that what works charmingly one season may be anything but so another. I found this season that some colonies, unlike last year, seemed to prefer the brood chamber for storing honey rather than the surplus department, so that frames of foundation that last year would have been partly neglected, this season were filled, or nearly so, with honey, decreasing the surplus but, of course, increasing their winter supplies. I promised in your last issue to give an estimate of the time given to, or the profit and loss of a given number of colonies, in an average season, in an average locality.

I remember on one occasion after Mr. Miller had secured a crop of honey the editor of "Gleanings" put the question, "Now, Dr., how much honey did you give to securing this crop?" I never remember seeing an answer to this question. We frequently see in the journals how many lbs. of honey a given number of colonies extracted in a given time, but I

have never yet seen an estimate of the time required to catch and cage a certain number of queens, or to make as many artificial swarms, or to destroy all queen cells, or if you like, the time given to an apiary from the beginning to the close. I am not prepared to say which would take the most time, an apiary run without natural swarms or one run with them. I know this, however, that in many cases I could artificially swarm, and prevent a colony from swarming, in much less time than it took to have it do so. Natural swarming is ahead in one respect at least, which is, that in a properly managed apiary many colonies do not swarm so that unless necessarily absent from an apiary for days at a time, I would not interfere by caging queens or any way I have described to prevent it. I am not sure, after all, whether we can arrive at anything very definite as to time required to find and cage a queen, or other things, because a great deal will depend upon the "fixtures." If your frames are "readily movable" with the top bars (and sides too) free from burr and bridge combs, then much greater speed can be attained. The apiary I base my estimate upon (it will be fairly estimated) is one that contains frames that I purchased with bees on them. They are a standing witness that deep top bars will not prevent bridge combs when not the proper thickness. These are only $\frac{3}{8}$ thick though $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep and the consequence is they are almost filled with bridge combs, and too frequently attached to the sides of the hives as well. It may be that some of these "lightning" fellows will think I am altogether too slow; well, I would say that those who know me best do not think so, and the party who is now managing the Owen Sound apiary is not by any means slow, and