

GENERAL.

Getting Large Yields by Raising Plenty of Bees Preventing Swarming.

DURING the past few months I have been in correspondence with a "Western man," (and that is as near as I have liberty to say who he is) and his writings have been so graphic, and his successes so wonderful that I begged him to write for the *Review*. With the following article came the information that the writer was managing bees for another man, and the owner objected to his giving the locality in connection with the report, as many would conclude that that locality was a bee-keeper's paradise, and would flock in there and overstock the locality which was well stocked now. As this article shows how to get plenty of bees at the right time, and then hold them to their work, I think best to publish it, even if the writer's name and locality must be withheld.—*ED. REVIEW.*

As our experience may help some of your readers to attain success in the matter of getting large honey yields from their apiaries, I will try to make plain, as briefly as possibly, how we made a success last season.

The bees were wintered on the summer stands, or rather packed in chaff in long rows made up as follows: Place 2x4's on the ground, or on blocks just high enough to be dry. Set the hives on these about six inches apart. Board up all around with rough lumber, with four to six inch space at back. Boards in front, against hive, just above entrance and leaning out at top to give packing space of 2 or 3 inches in front. Chaff under the hive. Scraps of boards split up to about $\frac{1}{2}$ square, place on top of frames, 2 sticks to each hive. Two or three ply of burlap, (gunny sacks) spread over the chamber an empty brood chamber set on top, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ filled with chaff. Then put on lid, with a chip under to let out the moisture, but not enough to let mice in. Then all is packed full of chaff about the hives clear to the top. The packing left about them until in May. If a colony began to hang out we gave more ventilation.

Last of March, or first of April, every colony was examined to see that they had stores. As the weather became warmer, we would remove some of the packing about top of the hive, to facilitate work. We finally left the chaff out that was in the upper chamber, and placed the lid down on the quilt. The last packing removed being that immediately about the brood chamber. But all were kept packed in whole or in part—enough for protection—until weather was

warm and hives full of bees.

When a colony could spare brood, it was made to help the weaker ones. By the last of May we had lots of bees, and many colonies, would rear drones, if any drone cells could be found, but we "cut their heads off," ditto queen cells if any were started.

The last of May and fore part of June, we spared no pains to get large quantities of brood. If a colony was short of honey, we gave them a card or two. About once a week, or perhaps ten days, every colony was examined, and brood spread, "drones shaved," and honey given if needed. About the 10th of June, (chaff had now been all removed) some colonies seemed bent on swarming, but we nipped the cells. We now lifted each brood chamber and placed a chamber underneath, some entirely vacant and some having one or two combs, just for climbers or ladders. This was done to give room to cluster, and to keep them cool. No comb was built in these lower chambers, because no honey was in the fields.

Up to this time, the bees had not made a living, but were dependent on the honey within the hive, but, by evening up stores and feeding about 1000 pounds of honey, we had kept all in good shape. Honey, however, was very nearly gone in the whole apiary, and our reserve in the honey house nearly exhausted. We expected the flow to begin about June 15 to 20th, or possibly later. We wanted each colony to have one or two supers on before the flow opened, so they could get acquainted, chink up cracks, etc., so we put on one super to each hive. Now observe, we were stretching them both ways: an empty brood chamber below, and a super above. We used but nine frames in the regular ten-frame Simplicity hive, so you see there was lots of room in between the combs and in empty cells, for bees to cluster.

The supers we put on at this time were arranged as follows: Of last year's unfinished sections, "extracted and dried," two rows against side of super, then a separator, then two rows of new section with full sheets of foundation, then a separator, then two more rows of old sections, and all wedged up with a follower. Thus we had sixteen sections all ready to put honey in, and twelve new ones. June 15 and 16th, the bees made their living. The 17th the flow opened and then there was some flying around done. Every brood chamber had to come out from beneath, (those empty's I mean) and more room given on top. We gave another super full of new sections and full sheets of foundation, lifting up the one already on, and putting the new one under it.