

but a permanent change has taken place in its character, and it is worthless. If an apple freezes, when it thaws it is not the same as before; but a frozen dried apple, upon thawing, is just as good as ever. Now, in the process of drying, there must be a certain point reached when it is dry enough so that it will not rot, and so that freezing will not injure it. Is it not possible that somewhat the same thing holds true with regard to honey? May it not be dried down to such a point that a zero temperature will produce no change in its structure? I think it is a fact that comb honey is slower to granulate than extracted. Why? Because it is sealed up? Possibly, but I suspect there is a difference, aside from the sealing. We all know that most sealed honey will granulate if kept cold enough, and we know that some extracted honey granulates more slowly than some sealed comb honey. Evidently the sealing does not make all the difference. You remember, Mr. Root told us about some very fine extracted honey which never granulated, although subjected to a very low temperature, but remained remarkably transparent at all times. Is it not possible that the only peculiarity about that honey was that it was thoroughly dried down evaporated—ripened, if you please?

Don't understand me as saying that I know about it, but I suspect that the principal secret of keeping either comb or extracted honey consists in drying it sufficiently, so that, if enough water be in the honey, upon reaching a sufficiently low temperature the water will separate from the honey, and crystallize, leaving the sugary parts to become solid; whereas if the water present be in sufficiently small quantity, no such change will take place. But to have the honey in right condition for keeping, I think it must be dried before any injurious action has taken place. I have kept extracted honey in a garret where, on a hot summer day, the heat was insufferable; and upon the advent of cold weather it granulated. Perhaps that was because it was closely tied in stone crocks which prevented evaporation. All that I have said agrees with Doolittle in strongly advocating the keeping of honey in a building affected by the heat of the sun, with plenty of chance for evaporation. At the risk of disagreeing with some good authorities, I have some doubts about honey ripening any better in the hive than out—at least, the last part of the ripening. I suspect it is evaporation, pure and simple, that ripens honey, and that would be the same whether done by bees or by other means.

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THE SEASON THUS FAR.

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

WE give below the reports received from a number of counties in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and a few more from Ontario. The cry is the same all over, "No swarms! No honey! No rain!" The recent rains have been pretty general, and we hope that our next report will be a great deal better than the present one.

QUEBEC.

BAGOT.

ACTONVALE.—Number of colonies in the spring of 1887, ten, in the fall of 1887, twenty. Wintered in cellar six months and lost five. Took 200 pounds of comb honey and 150 extracted. I wintered ten frame hives ventilated at the top, no quilt on. Raised cover one-half inch. This is, as a rule, a good location for bees, but it has been a very poor season this year.

CHATEAUGUAY.

HOWICK.—About one-half of my colonies did not swarm at all, being reduced so much by spring dwindling, also suffered to a certain extent from lack of stores. Now they are very strong with abundance of honey to carry them through the winter, notwithstanding my having extracted considerable, taking as much as 90 pounds from one colony. The colonies that gave the increase have done little more than store up well. Top swarms have done fairly well and will give about 50 pounds surplus, on an average. The first part of the clover bloom was good but the last two weeks strong drought has checked it very much. White clover honey is still coming in. Should the drought continue much longer the fall flow will be very small.

L'ASSOMPTION.

MASCOUCHE.—I put 60 colonies into winter quarters last fall and when I took them out four had no bees, three swarmed and I doubled up five with the others, leaving me 51. I have had only three swarms and I divided four. Total increase seven. I have not taken any honey from them yet as the clover was a failure. I have about 20 colonies that are ready to extract from as soon as the weather is warm enough. They seemed to have gathered a great deal more pollen this year than some years; some hives are almost full of it. Basswood is in bloom now but seems to have very little blossom. If frost does not