

changing combs of brood and bees for the empty combs, or preserve the colonies under strength for increase, as mentioned above. There is a little loss in giving brood and bees from a very powerful colony to a middling one. But the great advantage of having all colonies up to a certain average, for giving them supers, greatly overbalances the disadvantage, when we know that the work of attending a number of apiaries requires a somewhat wholesale management

At subsequent visits, after the opening of a honey crop, supers may be equalized. We usually give two supers to a colony, in a good season, at first, if the colony is powerful. We aim to have room, supplied with empty combs, in sufficient amount to insure against swarming, in ordinary circumstances. The swarming problem is thus reduced to so small a proportion that bees require next to no attention on this score. But should they swarm, we expect the farmer, on whose farm the bees are located, to supply some willing person to harvest the swarm, and we always have a few empty hives in readiness for this purpose. The price we pay for this trouble is usually 75c per swarm.

For the location of the apiary, we now pay either a round sum annually, say \$25, or a tenth of the crop of honey. We have often heard a farmer say that the little spot where our apiary is located is the most profitable spot of his entire farm. He is usually pleased and we want him pleased.

It is not our custom to extract the honey crop, before it is over. We aim to supply the colonies with a sufficient number of supers to lodge the entire crop. But in extraordinary seasons, such as that of 1916, when our bees averaged over 220 pounds per colony, spring count, it is out of the question to supply supers

enough for the crop. At such times, there are usually a large number of supers well filled, in which the honey is well ripened, so that it may be extracted, long before the harvest is at an end.

We have never practiced removing the honey in the supers from the outapiary and bringing it home to extract. The apiarist who is short of help and needs to use a power extractor can hardly afford to haul the outfit from one outapiary to another. So he removes the supers, brings them home, extracts the honey, and then brings the supers back to the hives. This requires a great deal of time and leaves the colonies deprived of those supers for at least two or three days.

We prefer to extract the honey, on the spot. In this manner we have taken supers from colonies in the morning, extracted the honey, and returned them to the hives in time to see fresh honey in them before evening. If we were forced to work single handed or with only one assistant, we would still prefer to use this method even if it entailed the purchase for each apiary of an entire outfit as expensive as they are made nowadays.

We have an extractor and a honey house at each apiary. The honey houses are inexpensive affairs. They are light and the main requirement is that they be bee-proof and mouse-proof. They are exceedingly cold in the winter and we want them cold, for we expect the freeze of our Illinois winter to kill all eggs or larvae of moths, which may be lurking in them when the combs are put away, at the end of the season.

Our honey extractors are large machines, capable of holding 8 of our extracting combs at one time. They are not of the reversible kind, but are so arranged that the combs may be reversed without lifting them out. We do not use a