

regardless of the flowers yielding fall honey, for we want these young colonies to be stimulated to raise all the brood possible, and this they will not do if stinted for stores. These second swarms will make our best colonies for next year. This fall we will give strong colonies all the supers of sections filled with full sheets of moderately heavy foundation. They will partly or wholly draw out, and if any brood hives should be light in stores when these cases are removed, we will give them heavy combs of honey to make them rich in winter stores and spring food for raising early the army of workers that are to gather a great crop of clover and basswood honey next year. The sections of honey made this fall will be extracted, and then set out some afternoon so that the bees may clean them of every particle of honey. During the winter and spring these combs will be levelled to uniform thickness on a comb leveler, and then returned to the section cases with one of our slotted handy separators between each two combs and then set in a proper place until ten days before clover blooms next year, when we will put one case on each strong colony. Previous to swarming in these cases, the bees will have no combs to build and they will fill them as speedily as a set of extracting combs. The sections will have the combs built solid to them on all parts and the honey will be very white and the combs the smoothest you ever saw. If we do not have enough drawn combs to hold our crop, we will use full sheets of foundation in sections to supply the deficiency, putting the sections with foundation in the centre of the super and drawn combs on the outside. Next spring, as soon as there is a fair prospect that hard winter is passed, we will move our colonies to the summer stands. Each will be examined on the first fair day after they have had a good fly, to ascertain the amount of bees and stores and to know they have a queen. These colonies will be in our handy hives of 10 frames of 100 inches of worker comb, each 1000 inches of straight worker comb and with not 2 square inches of drone comb in any hive will be supplied with combs of honey if lacking in stores. United with others if queenless and then covered warmly and then left in quiet unless something should call attention to some particular hive when special attention will be given it. After some of the colonies have become strong in bees we will put an extra hive filled with worker comb under them. This doubling of hives will be done for experiment to ascertain if this enlarging of brood room will give better results in comb honey than single hives.

But the most of our colonies will be in single hives, and near the time when white clover blooms, as has been mentioned, all strong colonies will be given a super of prepared sections and the section room increased as needed by putting other cases under the partly filled ones; and swarming prevented by plenty of storing room will do it, but no other means will be tried to prevent swarming. When a colony swarms (which it generally will do) they will be lived in one of our small handy hives on eight empty frames with starters in them only. The two outside frames will be filled with dummies, this will reduce the hive to 800 inches of comb space. I will hive on the starters only providing I do not care to increase my colonies, for I know I can get more comb honey by hiving in an empty brood chamber, but if I should conclude I wanted to increase my colonies, I will fill the frames with full sheets of worker foundation on horizontal wires so the foundation cannot stretch at the top and make drone comb of it, for with me a large cell, however made, is sure to be filled with male brood if any, and I cannot afford to raise drones in my small hives, (they are equally unprofitable in large hives) but whether I use empty or frames of foundation the hive will be contracted to 800 inches of comb space. The new hive will be set where the parent colony stood. The supers will be removed to it, the old colony set on the vacant end of the double stand with its entrance turned in the opposite direction and the new swarm hived in the new hive which will then be given all the cases of prepared sections they can fill until the end of the basswood honey season, near the end of July, when all the cases of sections will be removed to the iron house where the cases will be set on end with one inch space between them, so the air can circulate through them freely. Here they will remain some 60 days at a high temperature and plenty of circulating air and the honey even in the increased cells will become so thick as not to leak, even if left lying on its side. If we conclude to increase our colonies, the parent hive will be removed to a new stand the sixth or seventh day from swarming. This will reinforce the new colony, and increase the yield of surplus honey. After the honey is properly cured it will all be crated in one grade only and be of such quality as to stand first in any market. The crates will be made of light, clean smooth wood and paper and they will not leak and will be so light that a 15 section crate will weigh empty but 2½ pounds. I have shipped honey prepared as above in 200 pound lots 700 miles and with three