

little more easily. Hence there were 5000 to hatch out of each of these frames every 21 days, or 75,000 from the 15 frames."

"My! but what a lot of them!"

"Yes; but you were to keep still. The average life of the bee, in the working season, is 45 days; so you will see that the queen could place two and one-seventh generations of bees on the stage of action to where one generation dies off. Two and one-seventh times 75,000 equals 160,700 as the number of bees in that hive during the basswood yield."

"O Doolittle!"

"If I had not been there myself I could have hardly believed it. It was a sight worth beholding when the bees were just starting out for the fields in the morning, for they would rush out like an army, and then, later, the entrance would be one living mass going to and fro. From clover they gave 186 pounds; from basswood, 287½ pounds; and from buckwheat, 76 pounds, making the 566 in all. Here are the figures in my diary of that year."

"Well, I should think you did do the best you could with that colony, as you said you intended to."

"Now, suppose that, instead of securing this large amount of bees in one hive, I had not looked after them at all, but left them to take care of themselves, as most of those who doubt these large yields do, what would I have had?"

"I am not going to answer that question. I agreed to keep still."

"The queen would have laid only moderately, so that, by the time the white clover began to yield honey, they would have had only about from 25,000 to 30,000 bees. At about this time the bees would have swarmed, thus dividing their numbers, while their would have been no laying bee in the old hive to lay eggs for the

basswood or buckwheat workers for nearly or quite three weeks. Besides this, there would in all probability have issued one or more after swarms, thus dividing the bees still more, thereby defeating the prospect of any honey at all from the old colony, so that, were we to call 20,000 bees an ordinary colony as kept by the majority of bee-keepers, we should not be far out of the way."

"I think you are about right there."

"This would give but about 71 pounds per colony had this 1877 colony been divided up in that way, so that in reality that big yield, when brought down in this way to its proportion according to the number of bees there were in the hive, is nothing very great after all; for no one would call 71 pounds of extracted honey per colony, in good season, an exaggerated report."

"Then you think that the number of bees there are in a hive has much to do with the yield of honey from that hive."

"Most assuredly I do. And all bee-keepers should understand that it is bees that gather honey or nectar, not the number of hives you have standing in the yard, all the way from weak to moderate in bees when the honey harvest arrives."

"Will a large colony do more in proportion than a small one?"

"Now you have touched on a point worth much to every one who desires good returns from his bees. A large colony of bees will do much more in proportion than will a small one, for the outside elements do not have that chilling effect on the hive of a populous colony that they do on a hive with few bees in it. Thus more bees go to the field, and all work to better advantage."

"In a remark you made a little back you hinted at having the bees when

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