

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### Northern Michigan Honey Crop.

**T**HE first thing that strikes a stranger in this northern region is the big jump from winter to spring. No sooner does the snowy mantle disappear than Old Sol's beams strike quite fiercely. I have seen my neighbor's bees, distant ten miles from me, gathering pollen from flowers on a sandy soil the first week in April. This spring, however, the 20th of April was the earliest that they commenced operations. June gave us abundance of showers, but the next two months showers were somewhat scant. Raspberry, clover and maple yielded well, but the basswood yield did not by any means come up to last year's, which was a great one for honey secretion. The dew seems to favor us Northern fellows quite largely. It has fallen freely, and, as a consequence, we are not so bad off as we might be. Last summer my largest yield of extracted honey was 300 lbs., but this season my best will not be more than 90 lbs. The bees that I have are of the Heddon strain, which appear to me to be superior to any strain of hybrids or Italians that I have yet seen. Last season I procured some hybrids from a neighbor who obtained them from a leading American apiarist. Those bees, though they reared brood fast, did not ascend the sections, make as white comb, nor did they stay in the sections during the cool July and August nights as did the Heddon hybrid, so that I now can see why some writers decry the mixed race and prefer pure stock. Every race of bees as well as our men have their good and weak points, and between the best strains of the brown Germans and Italians I must say that my preference is for the former, owing to the superior white capping and comb building, also to their hardiness and consequent adaptability to this northern climate. I once read in some bee paper that the first colonies of bees (the German) were brought over on the May Flower and the writer strove to give the impression that they were the first bees that appeared on this continent. However, on perusing a recent sketch of De Soto's excursion through Georgia it appears that the woods abounded with bees and that he was regaled with honey by the hospitable Cherokees. Like Florida Northern Michigan, or at least, that portion of the peninsula north of a straight line from Alpena to Petoskey, is better adapted to the production of extracted than of comb honey, and the reason of it is that the cool summer nights force the bees from the sections to the body of the hive. It is for this reason that I like to have the covers of my hives made from thoroughly seasoned material. For experiment

I placed last year some packing on the hives at night instead of the covers and replaced the hive covers again in the day. This had the effect of keeping the bees more in the sections than when the hive covers were on at nights. The New Heddon Hive, however, promises to remedy to a considerable extent this cool night defect and I shall use them exclusively in the future. Mr. Heddon's motto appears to be "Excelsior" and I am much mistaken if he does not bring out some improvement on that hive which is creating such a stir in the apicultural world.

In the spring of the year I prepare my single-walled hives exactly in the manner described by Mr. Doolittle, although I did adopt it on the suggestion of any one. I do not pursue the same course of hive management as he does when the honey harvest arrives, but if the single-walled hives are not prepared in the spring in the manner described by him in a former article (especially in this latitude) it is my belief that the stock of workers will not be as strong as they otherwise would be when the harvest arrives. Mr. Heddon in his "Success in Bee Culture" which should be in the hands of the practical apiarist, advises that we have enough bee-keepers in the profession from a financial point of view, which is exactly the line of reasoning of the sage Ulysses of the Labor movement in this country who sees in unrestricted immigration a further curtailment of the laborer's hire. A valiant knight of the pen who thought otherwise told some of us last winter in C. B. J. "to come on" and he would defend his view, viz., that there "was not too much in the profession." I would refer this gallant McDuff to query No. 161 or 162 of the C. B. J. and he will find himself answered, especially by Dr. Thom, in a conclusive manner. The rise and progress of the Ostrich industry in South Africa redounding with financial gain to some and loss to more, presents exactly an analogous case to the honey industry of America.

The descriptions you give of the work done in your apiaries is alone worth the price of the C. B. J.

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### The Effect of Wind on the Interior of Hives.

**W**E doubt whether the effect of wind on the interior of a hive is fully realized by amateur bee-keepers; and should the following calculation be considered reliable, it may direct the attention of some at least towards better protecting their stock from the winter movements of the atmosphere.