

never been capped over is of inferior quality to that which has been fully and finally finished by the bees. Some bee-keepers have supposed that all such honey needed was to be evaporated by exposure to the air for a time before putting it into the glass or tin packages in which it is marketed. No doubt, honey thickens and improves under this evaporating process, but, after all, it lacks, to some extent, the infusion of formic acid which has been spoken of; and the more recent authorities on the subject, Prof. Cook among the number, advise bee-keepers not to extract honey until at least one-third of the cells are capped over. For my own part, I do not believe that honey is perfect until the bees have done with it. To have the very best quality of extracted honey, the extracting should be delayed until the work of capping is fully completed. This, as the old saying has it, "takes the gilding off the gingerbread." If honey, to be at its best, must be capped over before extracting, it cannot be afforded much cheaper than comb honey. Some bee-keepers are of the opinion that it cannot be afforded any cheaper than comb honey to pay the bee-keeper a fair profit.

There is now a decided tendency among bee-keepers to devote themselves more exclusively to the raising of comb honey. Most consumers are attracted by the pure, white, honey comb, and the few among them who do not want, as they say, "to chew wax," if they wish to secure honey of the first quality, will have to pay the bee-keeper for relieving them of the task of "chewing wax." In other words, they will have to pay for the best extracted article, nearly, if not quite the same price as that of the best comb honey. There are some bee-keepers, and I confess that I am one of them, who doubt, whether, after all, the extractor has been a beneficial invention. Such a thing as adulterated honey was never heard of until this machine made its appearance. Now the market is flooded with it. Other evils have followed in its train and there are not a few who trace nearly all the ills bee flesh is heir to, to the advent of the extractor. Without going that length, I believe it will be good for the interests of the apiary if both producers and consumers direct more attention to comb honey."

W. F. CLARK.

Guelph, Ont.

Report

From the apiary of W. J. Brown. 45 spring count, present count, 75, all in good condition.—Samples of honey obtained, five hundred pounds extracted, of thin and poor quality, chiefly gathered from buckwheat.

The season in this place (counties Prescott and

Russell) was never so poor before in the memory of the oldest beekeeper. Up to July 1st the bees had not more than one week of fine weather to work in: cold, wet and windy. I have been told by one beekeeper in Russell county that he had some starved out during the last week of June. The loss by many has been fifteen per cent.; while others, more fortunate, lost less.

I am very happy indeed to hear of the good season enjoyed by my eastern friends, and at the report of Mr. J. Merkle, of Eastern Ontario, though we do not get either his postal or county address. I was under the impression, previous to his information, that the season was a total failure at the east. Of course, within range of my bees there is no basswood whatever, and during the fruit bloom, this season, any bee daring to venture beyond the entrance of its hive, would be a "goner." Then the clover appeared to give out nothing; hence our only surplus was obtained from buckwheat, with a fair show for a fall flow from goldenrod, lady's slipper, asters, bouesets and other fall flowers. Last season was an extra good one here; so, I suppose, it would not do to have it good every time, as we might get so independent as to throw up all other pursuits. This is why I claim that agriculture and apiculture should go hand in hand.

Now, sir, as you have asked your readers to give you their opinions on the very important subject of "The Best System of Wintering Bees," I suppose we shall have to admit the aptness of the Irishman's axiom that "Every man has his own way for kissing his own wife." It is much the same in wintering bees. Some winter in cellars; some in attics; some in pits dug in the ground; some in hay mows; some on their summer stands; some in clamps; others, who have more honey to spare than your humble correspondent, go in for very elaborate houses; whilst that fellow, Awrey, out about North Bay, or the north pole (I forget which), used to bury them up in the snow until spring. By the way, Brother Jones, was that the result of your imagination which you had permitted to run away with you to that far distant locality? or do I hear you shout—"Halt, Brown! Don't go so far, or you will get out of breath!"

Well, to return to this subject of wintering, I have only to repeat what I told the readers of your valuable JOURNAL less than a year ago: In the first place I see that every hive has ample store of honey—not less than twenty-five pounds. No sugar for me, no matter how cheap it is. Of course, I may change this