

PROSPECTS OF THE SEASON.

For the Practical Bee-Keeper.

The spring so far has been very fine and bee keepers have not the usual complaint about spring dwindling. Since the spring opened there have been but a few days that the bees could not work, and only a few days that they suffered from night winds, and as a result the hives now on the 18th of May are flowing over with bees and swarms may issue any day.

The apple bloom is very fine and the bees are gathering honey freely so that the indications are that with the fine start now made, there should be a large crop of honey this season.

Our chief dependance in this section is on alsike and white clover, basswood and the Canada thistle. There is not much alsike grown here as the farmers do not seem to care much for it, but white clover is abundant. Last season however was too wet in the white clover season, and it did not yield much honey and it was also the off year for basswood, so that the honey crop was not up to the average. This year will likely be better as we will have (most likely) a fine bloom of basswood and the usual flow from white clover.

As a result of the short crop last year, there is no old stock lying over, the grocers and other dealers are enquiring for it, and we expect a ready sale for the new crop, and at fair prices.

Whilst I may write a short article occasionally for the "Practical" I do not as yet assume to be a "Practical Bee Man." I am just a student, anxious to learn all I can and after reading the April number of the C. B. J. I determined to keep down swarming so far as possible. Then when the May number came in, the advice seemed to be to let them swarm once, and although I have as many as I can fairly handle, I have

now decided to let most of them cast one swarm and prevent further swarming by the "Heddon" process, then remove the old hive to an out apiary and leave them to build up for winter. This will be done to prevent mistakes as to the young Queens, and also for better pasturage.

Yours respectfully,
A. BOOMER,

If you receive a copy of this number of The Practical and if you are not already on our list you are respectfully invited to subscribe at once. We send out this month a number of sample copies, and on receipt of a friend's name we will send him or her a sample which may materially aid them.

To those among our subscribers who desire a good French treatise on bee-keeping we would say that we have made arrangements to handle:

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PRODUCTIVE COLONIES.

Dear Mr. Editor.

It may be surprising to some, especially the novice, when I assert that the question of profitable honey production is not one of obtaining from our bees the largest yield of honey per colony, but rather that of obtaining it at the least expense per pound; and anything which frustrates, or makes this point a side issue, shows to a greater or less degree the way to financial loss. This as I have so often seen, is the case where to a greater or less extent impractical bungling implements, more especially hives,