

The Bees and the Law.

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THE supreme court of the State of New York has decided that it is a trespass for honey bees to revel in flowers growing upon land not belonging to the owner of the bees. The ruling is just, but the fun will begin when the owner of the land tries to avail himself of this law and to find out just whose bees are standing on their heads in flowers or pirating the honey from his own bees in his own buckwheat field. There are difficulties in the way of his getting his wife to stitch his initials in the wings of all the bees from his own apiary, as she would mark the corners of his handkerchief or his Northern Zone of his stockings. Nor would it be a pleasant job to use a rubber stamp and mark each one of his honey making insects. The latter would object to this—pointedly. Cattle may be branded, and sad eyed sheep can be frescoed with a brush and paint, but the bee is not formed by nature to wear the monogram of its owner. Neither has nature fitted the bee with a handle whereby it could be held while undergoing the process of marking. The most amiable boy would decline holding a bee for such or any other purpose, at least would refuse to hold more than one. Even to catch and insert a healthy bee in a device made for the holding process would entail unpleasant results to the catcher. The trespassing of honey bees in New York State will go on in spite of the supreme court, and the busy and buzzing trespassers will go unstamped.

This Season's Observations.

THIS year was a favorable one for bees. Golden willow began blooming April 15, and in a few days the hives were all well filled. We had but little rain from November till the middle of May; consequently the spring was extremely dry. But for all that, bees make a good living through fruit-bloom and buckeye. Locust opened up with fine prospects, but it then began raining, and it rained for four weeks. Poplar bloomed profusely at this time, but the weather was too rainy for the bees to do much. Finally it cleared up, and white clover began blooming, though much later than usual, on account of the early drought. Then the bees begun to swarm, and kept swarming until July 4th. We increased from 20 to 40, doubling up many of the new swarms. Basswood produced but little honey. White and sweet clovers did well.

YOUNG SWARMS ROBBING THE PARENT HIVE.

June 2, we had a second swarm that was hived on frames containing some comb. After a little while I noticed an unusual number of bees going in and out of both the old and new stands. The next day I examined the new stand, and found the combs half built, and completely full of honey. The young swarm had robbed the parent hive of most of the honey. I am confident that they robbed it, for on the evening of the day that the swarm came out it was pretty cool, and not a bee was moving about any hive except these two. I got some flour and sprinkled on the bees coming out of the old hive, and found them all going into the new swarm. We have had several cases of this kind, and right in the midst of a good honey-flow. The parent hive never offers any resistance. But no harm is ever done by this kind of robbing. They never rob except the first day after coming out. I have seen them robbing quite lively late in the evening, and next morning not a bee would go back. One hive is robbed a little every year in this way by its first swarm.

DRONE ASSEMBLIES.

I am inclined to think that drones do not go very far to congregate. This year I heard the loud roaring of drones high up in the air in several places in our locality. Some of the assemblies were not more than half a mile apart.

RED CLOVER.

This year the second blooming of red clover produced honey quite freely. The blossoms were short, and the bees could easily reach the honey. During the drought, when the ground was extremely dry and the air very hot, the bees gathered honey in large quantities from it; and at the present date, Sept. 16, they are still working hard. The brood chambers are very full of honey; in fact brood is to a great extent crowded.

HONEY-DEW.

About the 10th of August, honey-dew began to appear on the maple-trees. It came in small quantities at first, but increased each morning for about a week. After that about the same amount fell each night until Sept. 6, when it suddenly ceased. The bees worked on it from daylight until 10 o'clock. At the end of that time it disappeared, leaving stains on the leaves where the drops had been. It appeared more on warm nights, when there was lots of dew, and lasted longer on days that were cloudy. It always appeared on the upper side of the leaves, never on the under. It came in drops the size of small raindrops; and while some