

imately the same number of bees in each hive when they have their first flight in the spring. The dwindling is the result of the old bees dying off faster than the young ones are hatched, and anything which causes the old bees to die off faster than they would under normal circumstances, or which retards the raising of brood in the hive, is conducive to this trouble. Taken altogether, April is a risky month for the bees if they belong to a person who knows nothing about bees in general and his own bees in particular. If you think of buying young bees in March or April take my advice and wait until May 15th or thereabouts. You won't miss any of the season by doing so.

Comb or Extracted Honey?

A question that presents itself to every beginner is whether he shall run his bees for the production of comb honey or extracted honey. He often decides in favor of comb honey because he figures that the outlay for supplies will not be so large—no extractor, uncapping knife, tin cans or anything of that kind to buy. The productions of first-class comb honey at a profit is a thing, however, that can only be accomplished by a person who thoroughly understands the handling of bees, and the money spent for section supers, sections, foundations, cases, frames, etc., and the time required to put these things together (breaking probably half the sections the first time it is tried) will come to nearly as much as would start in the plant necessary for the securing of extracted honey. Another thing: when you have a stock of extracting combs and a good extractor, you have them for all time, properly cared for; and if you ever want to sell out, these combs are worth money—a lot of it. In the production of comb honey, everything except the supers must be bought and put together every year, and is sold with the

honey. It is also much more difficult to control swarming when running for comb honey, and without control of swarming comb honey can not be produced successfully. There are plenty of other reasons, too, but these will suffice for the present. After you have been running the bees a year or two and have become acquainted with them and with your locality, if you feel like having a try at comb honey, by all means have it. You will be far more likely to succeed than if you tried it first go off.

About Supplies.

A word with regard to supplies. Do not "skimp." Better have more than you need than not have enough. For every colony you start the season with you will need a hive to put a swarm in if it comes. You will need a super for the old hive and one—perhaps two—for the swarm. These hives and supers must, of course, have frames in them, and the frames should be wired and filled with full sheets of foundation. If you have never seen a hive complete, it will pay you to have one nailed up at the factory, so you can see just how the whole thing goes together. A queen excluder will be required for each hive, to keep the queen in her proper place. Then you will need a smoker, a good veil and a pair of gloves. You will throw the gloves away after a while but will consider them an absolute necessity at first. A small extractor and a honey knife will complete your outfit at the start. And order your supplies now, so that they will be ready for the bees when needed. What size of hive? For extracted honey production the ten-frame Langstroth hive will make you fairly happy. Fenelon Falls, Ont.

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