

pay? Surely it does to the beather bee-keeper. His crops of honey are counted by the tons, while bee-keepers with all the better appliances, such as movable frames, extractors, etc., in other localities, count theirs by the pounds. He is conservative in adopting movable frame hives, because his hive and its management give him more profit than the movable frames and their management, without wandering. Only Mr. Gravenhorst's hive is suitable for wandering, and it is gaining friends more and more among these bee-keepers.

By the experiments made in this country, I think migratory bee-keeping can be made profitable if the bees are moved from a locality having spring flowers only, to one abounding in fall flowers, the moving being done after the first flow has closed. A difference in rain fall sometimes causes quite a difference in the honey flow of the same kind of blossoms, but I scarcely think the moving of bees will pay in this case. By the time we have found out where the better honey flow is, and made preparations for moving, the best of it may be passed, and then an unexpected shower in our locality may start a better flow, and we would be obliged to move back at once. We are dependent upon the weather in all localities.

Migratory bee-keeping may be recommended if we can secure a honey flow in the new locality at a time when none would be gathered in the home apiary. In some years, unfavorable weather or other circumstances, may cause a failure, but in other years it will pay twice. The distance and number of colonies to be moved must also be considered. It is clear that the transportation of a few colonies to a far distant pasture would be unprofitable. In short, the whole matter requires the right management and calculation, the same as any other business.

One difficulty is the loss and expense of moving. For this purpose we need a hive of special construction. The Langstroth is not a good hive for this purpose. It requires too much preparation, such as fastening frames, closing up the top and entrance. If we take a straw skep, for instance, it may be turned up side down, a cloth tied over the opening, then set on the wagon and all is done. A movable comb hive for this purpose, ought to be as easily and quickly prepared.

It would be foolish to bring newly gathered honey to the new location where we expect another crop, hence the old beather bee-keeper utilizes the early flow to increase his apiary as much as possible, depending upon buckwheat and beather for the main crop, and he gets a big force of workers just before they bloom.

With movable frame hives, we can easily take

off the supers for transportation, and give new empty ones in the new location.

The whole management must necessarily be different. Very correctly, Mr. Doolittle says that all depends upon having our force of workers at the right time; and a colony that has gathered a big crop of honey (say in May and June) is not generally in condition to do the best work in a second crop in July and August or later. The queens of such colonies are exhausted for the season, and their colonies come to the fall harvest in poor condition, and also inclined to swarm as soon as honey comes in. There are different ways of overcoming this, but it would be easier to write a book upon migratory bee-keeping than to give, in one short article, the most important points. I will add, however, that for a good, short and early flow a colony ought to be as strong as possible, that is, have a large brood chamber, yet I would prefer a smaller hive and a medium colony for migratory bee-keeping. This for two reasons: a strong colony is more likely to be killed by transportation, and the queen is more exhausted.—L. STACHELHAUSEN in Bee-Keepers Review.

#### The Bees and the Season.

C. F. Bridgman, Fernton, Man., writes in the Nor'-west Farmer, This has been rather a dry season for us so far, but bee-keepers do not begin to grumble much until after the farming population have been at it some time; that is, one will grumble agriculturally earlier than apiculturally. This apparent mildness of nature is not owing so much to more gentle blood as to the fact that honey yielding plants, for several reasons, are in a better position to withstand the same amount of drouth than most farm crops, and dry weather usually produces more good bee working days in which to gather the nectar, even though deposited in smaller quantities. If the recent showers which have fallen lately duplicate themselves often enough we will be able to dispense with the grumbling entirely, and expend all our energies on the honey extractor.

Last spring was very backward, but the bees, considering this drawback, built up rapidly. The fore part of June they were stronger than usual, and would have given considerable surplus honey and I run them specially for it, one extra strong colony having stored over thirty pounds. The latter end of June most colonies got a little more than enough for use, but the middle of July honey seems a little more plentiful and brood rearing goes rapidly on. There is nothing now except the absence of fine weather to prevent us having a good fair surplus of honey.