

was a poor one owing largely to the failure of basswood. My average will not exceed 20 lbs per colony. This, however, is exclusive of some 600 lbs of full combs reserved for levelling up for winter. I have fed some 200 lbs. of sugar to some 20 colonies and have enough full combs to fix up the balance.

Let us hope for better things next season.

How Large Yields of Honey are Secured.

"Good evening Mr. Doolittle. It was such a bright moonlight night that I thought I would run over a little while and have a talk with you about large yields of honey. Do you believe some of the yarns got off in the bee-papers? I have some old papers lent me by neighbor Smith, and in one of them I see a report of over 600 lbs. of honey from a single colony during one year. Can there be any truth in such a statement?"

"Well, friend Church, I think there is truth in the statement; for in 1877 I secured 566 pounds of honey from one colony of bees, and so reported in several of the bee-papers of that time."

"Whew, But wasn't that a big coming?"

"This was considered as a large yield at that time, and still so considered by beginners and those that were not familiar with the records of the eighties, during which there were several yields made of from 600 to nearly or quite 1000 pounds from single colonies, the truth of which could not well be doubted."

"But how is such a thing possible?"

"To make you best understand I will tell you something about that colony which gave the 566 pounds in 1877. That spring I selected an average colony of bees and set it

apart for extracted honey, intending, of course, to do the best I could with it. I built them up as fast as possible by the means usually employed, that of spreading the brood and keeping as warm as possible without artificial heat, as is frequently given in our bee papers and books. By the time apple-trees were in bloom the queen had brood in twelve frames, and from that source I extracted, according to my diary of that year, 16½ pounds, besides leaving them enough to tide over the time of scarcity between apple-bloom and white clover."

"You speak of 12 frames. Is not that a large hive?"

"Well, yes. But a few days after, these twelve frames, bees and all, we set into a hive four feet long, and a division board placed at the rear of the combs. Once a week two more combs were inserted in the centre of the broodnest until the hive contained twenty combs quite well filled with brood."

"Say, Doolittle, arn't you yarning it? My best colonies do not have over seven or eight frames of brood."

"If you will allow me to go on with my story I think you will see through the whole thing soon."

"Excuse me. I'll try not to interrupt again."

"As white clover was now yielding honey, the hive was filled out with frames of empty comb, the whole number in the hive now being 32. I did not expect that the queen would occupy any of these last 12 combs, but in this I was mistaken; for before white clover was through yielding honey I found brood in every one of the 32 combs, which, if placed compactly together, was fully equal to 15 frames solid full of brood. Each frame gave fully 100 square inches, and each square inch gives 50 worker bees. If exact, it would be about 55, but we will call it 50 as it figures a