

OUT APIARIES.

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In dealing with this subject I can only do so from my own experience. I would very much like to see some articles on it from those who have had more experience than myself. I would explain also that what I may say refers to an out apiary where there is no natural swarming and not to one where the bees are allowed to swarm as in a home apiary, because the management would be practically the same. What we want discussed is an out apiary where there is no watching for swarms or loss because of them. There must be no guess work about it either, as the loss of swarms means humiliation to their owner and a serious lessening of his profit. In dealing with this subject there should be many things of interest to those who may never have any intention of establishing an out apiary of their own. I would invite discussion, Mr. Editor, so that we may all be benefited thereby, and I to have one or more out apiaries? We would propose that criticisms and suggestions be made quickly while it is fresh in our minds. The first question that confronts us is, Does it pay to have one or more out apiaries. We are all agreed that it does not pay unless you have more bees in the home yard than are required to gather the honey there, and this brings us to the question of overstocking or how many colonies can be kept to advantage in one apiary. Of course localities differ, but it is a noteworthy fact that the bee-keeper with a large number of colonies, as a rule, does not get as much honey per colony as one with a smaller number when managed as well; and as his

stock increases his average decreases. I have for a long time tried to solve this problem as far as myself was concerned and after twenty years I have come to the conclusion that I have been keeping too many in one place. When the white clover is in full bloom it would seem hardly possible to over-stock it, but if we limit our observation to this particular time we will make a grand mistake. In my opinion it is at fruit bloom time that the greatest mistake comes from having too many bees in one place. I used to look very indifferently on the honey from this source, but I have changed my views entirely. We do not want any of it in our surplus apartments but the more we can get of it in the hive proper the better the queen will lay, and I was going to say better still, there will be no empty cells for the white clover to follow and it is then taken direct to the surplus apartment. It makes a great difference to the white clover surplus when the hive below is filled with honey, brood and bees at the beginning of this our almost only source of surplus honey. Previous to last year I have had from 150 to 200 colonies in the home apiary with often not enough honey gathered to carry them over from fruit bloom to white clover. Last year just before fruit bloom I shipped 100 colonies to Owen Sound and lo! the difference, we never had so much honey in the hives at the beginning of white clover bloom, never had so large a surplus and never so little feeding to do except one year when the white clover continued to yield honey during August even after the queen had slackened up her laying. Now it may have been due to the season, but I feel safer in attributing it to the fewer bees. When the white clover is in full bloom one has to wait for a long time to see a blossom