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"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING"

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Outapiaries.

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IT was in 1871 that I established my first outapiary. I was working with my father, for I was only 20 years old, but very enthusiastic and very ambitious. We had ascertained that an apiary of over 100 colonies, in our locality, would prove unprofitable.

Here, it may be well to say that there is no doubt in my mind that, in many locations, the bloom of white clover, or of sweet clover, or of buckwheat, or in fact of any special product of a region, may be sufficient to maintain several hundred colonies in one spot. In fact, if bees were in the habit of flying 6 or 8 miles for honey, readily and with good results, as claimed by some people, a radius of this size—16 miles across—would give illimitable crops.

But unfortunately, bees do not fly much beyond 2 miles, profitably nor ordinarily. Their extensive flights are only in immense plains or continuous valleys. Then their success at any place does not depend altogether on the one crop. They must have some yields in light amount to help prepare for the harvest and sometimes to store honey for wintering. I have in mind the fact that if we had no spring flowers, no dandelions, no fruit blossoms, a plentiful clover bloom which could not be extended over several months would not prove profitable. Similarly, the extensive crops of palmetto honey, in April-May of Florida, are insufficient for successful beekeeping, as there is too much idle

time before and after, when the bees consume their stores, laboriously acquired during a short honey crop.

Thus, it is necessary to keep only a moderate number of colonies, even in good localities, so they may not overstock the vicinity during the blooming of the less abundant early and late honey-producing plants. So, whether right or wrong, we long ago decided that, in our locality, a hundred colonies is a full quota for a radius of 4 or 5 miles.

It used to be of some importance to place outapiaries as closely as convenient to the home apiary, to save traveling wear and tear, as well as time. We soon ascertained that apiaries located 5 miles apart would yield very varying results, in the quality, color and quantity of the honey. This confirmed our view that, in Illinois at least, bees are not in the habit of harvesting honey much faster than two miles from their homes.

With only one outapiary, besides the home apiary, it was not difficult to conduct intensive beekeeping. By this I mean that we could still keep an eye on every colony weekly, during the height of the breeding season, when the bees are to be produced in large numbers the coming harvest. It was possible to watch their progress, their increase, very closely, and help the needy ones whenever they were short. The supers were not put on until the colonies became quite strong, even if it required several visits before all were provided. In this