

and it will bear on our honey markets in the future.

The honey and wax production of Cuba before the war, which commenced in 1895 was very important in all districts of the island, especially in the Provinces of Párrto Príncipe and Santiago de Cuba.

According to the Statistics of Exportation of Cuba, published by the Minister of Insular Affairs of Spain; during 1894, 2,433,989 Kilograms or (5,354,000 lbs.) were exported from Cuba. Of this amount 4,300,000 lbs. was shipped to the United States, but almost all was shipped in transit to European markets only a very small percentage entering the American markets.

According to the same authority only 1,194,845 Kilograms or (2,600,000 lbs.) were exported in 1895. This large falling off in exports is easily explained by the fact that in February of 1895 the revolution commenced in the eastern provinces, and the writers own practical experience with an apiary of 300 colonies, demonstrated that the honey yield was considerably under the average; caused by the cool northeast winds which prevailed during the height of the "campanilla" blossom.

With a very few exceptions, this must be considered a natural and spontaneous production, as the bees receive very little care, the only physical exercise being required was to put the swarms into empty boxes, and place a palmetto leaf on top weighted down with a stone. The mental exertion required in studying up better methods for their management was considered entirely superfluous.

The native Creole or box hive consists of a box about 4 ft. long and from 8 to 12 inches square inside, and open at one end. Where lumber is scarce, hollow logs are sawed off and used in the same way. The hives are placed in an almost horizontal position, only being inclined enough to keep the water from running in at the entrance or open end.

The old adage that "There's nothing new under the sun" is strikingly proven in this case, for here it is that reversing is carried to perfection? When a swarm is placed in one of these long boxes the bees take up their abode in the spot most suited to their fancy, generally near the middle, leaving a vacant space at each end. As the honey flow commences, the bees naturally build comb and store the

honey in the closed end where it is better protected from outsiders. The first extraction takes place during the latter part of December, when the board is knocked off the rear end, and the honey cut and pulled out with long hooks; after this operation the hives can be turned around and the other end closed up, the extraction of this end taking place during the latter part of January. Two and sometimes three extractions are made during the season, besides a "impieza" or cleaning up given the bees in August or September when some honey and considerable wax is taken from them, thus reducing the opportunity for the moth worm to get a hold on them.

It can be seen that although the honey flow is very bountiful, only a limited amount of honey is obtained on account of the bees not having any place to store it.

Taking into consideration the waste, consequent of such a crude system of manipulation, I think an average of three gallons per hive to be a conservative estimate, and if we can place any reliance in the statistics of honey exported during the economical year of 1894, it will be seen that it took nearly 160,000 hives to produce this amount.

It is difficult to form anything but conjectures regarding the importance and value of apiculture in Cuba, as the wave of fire and death which swept across this beautiful island, has almost totally exterminated not only the bees, but also their owners. The following instances are given as examples: From the mayor of the town of Jaruco twenty-five miles east of Havana; "I calculate that 98% of the bees in this district have been destroyed since the beginning of the war. There are now only four apiaries consisting of 250 colonies. The Creole or box hives yield about four gallons per hive, and the American sixteen gallons per hive." It will be remembered that this is the place where the Casanova apiary was located, and which was so ably managed by our late friend Mr. Osburn, and from which Mr. Somerford got the banner honey crop of Cuba. Thanks to the purifying effects of fire, the foul brood which wrought such havoc in that apiary has been eradicated.

From the town of Candelaria, in the Province of Pinar del Rio; "Before the war there were five apiaries of over 700 hives each in this district, besides many other of less number. There are now