

bought nine colonies of bees in common box hives about the first of June. He brought them home and transferred them at once to movable-frame hives, and in about three weeks divided them, making 20 colonies of the nine he bought, using some queen-cells I had on hand for his surplus colonies. He then attended to those 20 colonies so they were all strong at the commencement of our buckwheat harvest. I then lent him 20 hives of empty combs to put on top of his colonies to extract from. He took 2849 pounds of extracted honey from those nine colonies and their increase, and left them in good condition, so every one came out the next spring in fine order. Another son, the same season took one colony, divided into three, and received 347 lbs. extracted honey. They also came through the following winter in good condition.

I speak of these cases simply to show that it is not necessary to keep hundreds of colonies in order to get a little honey. If you will only keep strong colonies, and give them the best of care, you will soon find both pleasure and profit in bee-keeping.

—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

### THE GERMAN WAX PRESS.

In the "Leipziger Bienen-Zeitung" is asked and answered a question which shows that the thought of some of the German bee-keepers is running in a direction the same as some of our own.

Question—Is it possibly profitable, when one is rendering wax through the steam wax press to boil the comb in a large kettle before turning them into the press.

Answer—I do not think that the above method has any manifest advantage. If the wax press is considered in a rational way it is not necessary. The steam will plentifully melt all the wax so there will be no loss. Of course, we at once admit that if the comb is heated before putting into the press a large quantity can be pressed at a

time. But when one counts the time and inconvenience of such a previous cooking it is less trouble to heat the comb in the steam press. It also appears to me that one may get less wax by previous boiling, as in the larger quantity there is greater likelihood of the material forming in lumps or balls."

I would strongly favor previous melting, life is too short for me to melt the comb in the German wax press, and if by any means the pressure is applied before the comb has been melted there is great delay waiting for the steam to penetrate the now solid-pressed mass.

### THE HONEY PRODUCERS' LEAGUE

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

In the April 15th number of "Gleanings" I see that what is called "The Honey Producers' League" has been formed on the other side. In the centre of the preamble a paragraph reads as follows: "A large share of last year's honey crop is still unsold, while the market is practically dead, as is easily shown by reference to the market reports. The crop of the coming season will soon be here, and should it prove a bountiful one, with last year's crop still unsold, where will prices go then? We may as well face the situation squarely. Then comes the all-important question: "What shall we do about it?" This is really a deplorable situation for the bee-keepers of the United States to find themselves in.

I see that W. Z. Hutchinson has been appointed secretary. A few years ago he was advising bee-keepers through his paper to "keep more colonies." This, along with a few other things, of minor import, has, no doubt, brought about the present state of affairs in his country. I took exception to his advice over a year ago, in the columns of the Canadian Bee Journal, and I noticed some other bee-keepers on the other side did also, in the American bee papers. I have no fault to find with the new organization, and hope it will be a long time before a similar one will be needed in Canada.

Bees have wintered fairly well in this locality, with one or two exceptions, where they did not get the proper care. The spring has been cold and backward so far and will cause some spring dwindling.

W. H. KIRBY,

Oshawa, April 24, 1905.