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BEE-KEEPERS I MET ON MY TRIP

BY A TRAVELER

Rev. T. J. Spratt, at the head of Wolfe Island, opposite Kingston, runs about 140 colonies. This was rather a poor season with him, having secured but a small crop of comb and about 30 swarms. Father Spratt uses the Richardson hive, with T tin rests in the supers, clips his queens, manages for comb honey exclusively, tiering up two, three or four supers of 27 sections each on a hive. He employs a faithful man to watch the yard during the summer and a young woman to scrape, sort and crate the comb in the autumn and prepare the four-piece sections, with full sheets of foundations in the spring, for the latter purpose using what is known as the Spangh Foundation Fastener, which is the most sensible and satisfactory automatic machine I have come across, excelling five or six of those commonly used.

Father Spratt produces a first-class article, and supplies most of the comb honey sold in Lindsay. His bees would probably do better if they were situated not so near the extremity of the island—say two miles or so farther

from the lake—so they could fly in two ways instead of one.

John Ham of Coboconk is also a comb honey producer. He follows the old system of using wide frames, each holding eight sections; usually averages 50 lbs. to the colony. Mr. Ham winters in a cellar, with the outside door opening into a wood shed, and left open when the weather is at all moderate.

W. L. Cogshall of West Groton, N.Y., ran a yard of 300 colonies this season near Cornwall, on the St. Lawrence river. His daughter and son-in-law spent the summer there. W. L. is always on the alert and can smell a field of buckwheat a long distance off. He clears off a plot five or six rods square, right in the woods, places a plain honey house at one end and sets out from 50 to 100 colonies, and winters them successfully afterwards in this salubrious spot. He uses saw-dust packing and places the hives two deep in the clamps, having, of course, an upper set of entrances.

Managing for extracted honey, he uses only one top storey, with seven frames, 9x18 inside measure, and eight frames below, spaced 1-8 inch closer. He uncaps very deep with a cold, dry Bingham honey knife; uses extractors taking two and four pairs of frames horizontally, and handles two combs in each hand at a time, passing them