

people to know the difference between good and inferior honey and to educating all in the direction of producing a better and more uniform article. This undoubtedly can be done as it undoubtedly has not been done in the past to any great extent.

Let us begin right with swarming for the sake of illustrating. Since my bees have been got ready for winter quarters I have done some travelling about and have seen some bees not my own. In one running a large number of colonies as I do and moving about from place to place, though we cannot always be as neat and convenient as one would like, yet we try to have things in order and we have had apiaries which have been the admiration of the passing public, but what do we often see. Hives scattered about, under this and under that tree, by the fence, wherever the whim of the bees have caused them to cluster, there the hive remains. Is this an exaggeration? No. But it is left for a New York state bee-keeper to cap the climax in that direction, to anything I have ever seen. When travelling between Syracuse and Rochester I saw by the railway track in an orchard a table and upon this table the hive stood. No doubt the bee-keeper(?) had taken the table to stand on, placed the hive upon the table and shaken the swarm in front and there it remained. I might say, however, that along the line between Syracuse and Buffalo I saw more apiaries, small and large than I have ever seen in the same distance of travel and in the majority of cases the hives were neat and well placed.

Such treatment of swarms must lead to very great inconvenience and even loss. Not long ago I was in an apiary with the hives so scattered about, and the question of wintering came up. The bee-keeper said he was going to pack on their summer stands. Then I asked

how these hives were going to be brought into place. The reply was: "Carried over." Now, to bodily carry a hive over to its winter stand, a distance of twenty down to three yards is something an expert bee-keeper does not care about. He knows better, and he knows that the bees which have located themselves on a certain stand when so "carried over" will, when the first fine day comes, fly, and returning to the old stand, be lost. Bees should have a fly after being disturbed by packing for winter. To gradually draw them over to their winter stand with frequent flights as they are being moved, reminds me of a story I heard when I was a boy: A very wise man and his followers, not endowed with much of this world's riches, were travelling on foot to a certain city. The day was intensely warm and the road dusty. The wise man was preceded by his followers who ignored a horse shoe in their path; but the wise man picked it up and quietly exchanged it for cherries in a hamlet through which they passed. The wise man then took the lead and one by one dropped the cherries in the path of his followers, who, thirsty, and perhaps hungry, eagerly picked each cherry up as they came to it. The man of wisdom then turned and gave them a discourse, the purport of which was, "A stitch in time saves nine."

Let everyone determine, should they live, this coming season, to place upon its proper stand, the swarm. Let it be done, if possible, before it is hived. Much the better way, aside from after inconvenience, is to have the new swarm on the old stand. If, however, the bee-keeper does not know from which hive the swarm issued, then a hive where the bees will be the most convenient to manage. Dragging a hive a few feet away each time they have had a fly, is much like picking up the cherries instead of the horse-shoe.

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