

## Honey and Sugar.

### RIDDING A COLONY OF PESTS.

With moths enough and drones enough there is little chance of success with bees. It is not a very hard matter to dispose of both. The bee moth, in its larval state as the wax worm, does its mischief by gnawing the combs and spinning its silken galleries in them; the easiest way to keep it at bay is to keep all colonies strong. When a colony becomes so weak that a considerable portion of the combs are left unprotected by the bees, these unprotected combs are promptly occupied by the moth, and if the colony is sufficiently weak and discouraged it is not long till the combs occupied by bees are also infested.

If bees are allowed to swarm at their own sweet will, it is a common thing for one colony to throw off several swarms, all after the first, or possibly after the second, being too weak to be profitable, and leaving the mother colony also weak. These weak colonies furnish good ground for the wax moth. Do not allow more than one swarm to issue from each colony, and the moth will not find a good field for operation.

There is a difference in bees themselves as to resisting the attacks of moths. The Italian bee will defend itself much more promptly than the common brown or black bee. Even a weak colony of Italians will keep its combs clear of worms. This is one among several reasons why those who make a business of bee keeping have mostly Italians.

It is by no means necessary to have a large number of drones. For 12 colonies, a score or two of drones are sufficient to mate with the young queens. Each drone costs more to rear than a worker, and during its lifetime it is only a bill of expense, eating the honey stored by the workers, doing no work in the hive, and going out for exercise only to create an appetite to eat more. But it would be a very slow operation to pull the young drones out of their cells with a pair of tweezers. You can accomplish the same purpose in less than one-tenth the time by taking a sharp knife, perhaps a carving knife, and shaving off the heads of the young drones in the cells after they are sealed over. It is not necessary to shave deep, just enough to take off the cappings will be sufficient to kill the drones. The workers will drag out their dead bodies.

In your case, as in many others, prevention is better than cure. If there is no drone comb in the hive, no drones will be reared. Cut out the parts of the comb that contain only drone cells. You can easily distinguish between drone and worker cells. Lay a rule on the comb, and if you find four cells to the inch you have drone comb. Five worker cells measure an inch. It will be of little use to cut out the drone comb and leave the bees to fill in fresh comb, for it will almost surely be drone comb. Fill the hole with a patch of worker comb. If you have 20 frames of comb containing more or less drone cells, it will pay well to cut up two or more of them to make patches for the rest.—The A. I. Root Co., O.

### MARKETING THE PRODUCT.

Syrup seems to be the most popular with families. Small cakes are bought occasionally in small quantities for the children or for a gift to some friend. Families who buy a year's stock now should take full sugar, making their syrup as wanted by dissolving a small quantity of sugar in a very little water, using a bright tin basin and boiling slightly on the kitchen range, care being taken that it does not scorch. The flavor does not usually change as much with sugar as with syrup. The majority buy only a few gallons of syrup and use it in two or three months. For such, syrup is best, as it is more convenient and the flavor does not have time to change. At the syrup faucet of the evaporator, it is well to have a can holding 5 to 7 gals. The felt strainer is suspended over this on a frame under the faucet. Have all the cans to be filled rinsed with hot water and placed near the hand before the syrup has reached the 11-lb heat; after some has been strained into the large can, begin filling the small cans or bottles for market, using a funnel and a long-handle quart dipper. Screw caps on tight at once. It is well to weigh a few of the new cans to see if the tinmith has

made them the right size—the syrup must be 11 lbs net. If to be shipped by express or freight, they must be crated. Seasoned basswood makes good crates; 5 or 6 gals are enough for one crate, as crates too heavy are liable to get broken. For gallon cans, use  $\frac{3}{4}$  in boards for ends and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in by 3 in for sides, tops and bottoms. Crates should be made during stormy weather in winter, when time is not valuable.

In marketing, the 1 gal size is the standard. Quart and 2 qt cans may be disposed of faster, but not usually at a sufficient advance in price to cover the extra cost of small package. All dust and syrup drippings should be washed and wiped clean from the outside of the cans before crating. Five gallon cans are seldom used in family trade, but are bought by hotels and boarding houses. Their chief use is for storage by middlemen until autumn or mid-winter, when they heat it up with granulated or coffee sugar, glucose or other cheap stuff, put it up in fancy style and label it "Pure new Vermont maple syrup." Many families try samples and the general verdict is "Vermont maple syrup isn't very nice after all, but it is better on buckwheat cakes than New Orleans or Porto Rico." Some producers hold their crop until the following Feb and then ship it to market (sometimes with a little new syrup added) labeled "new maple syrup." All this and the practice of selling the "bud run"—dark and strong—keeps the price and the demand at 50 per cent less than it should be.

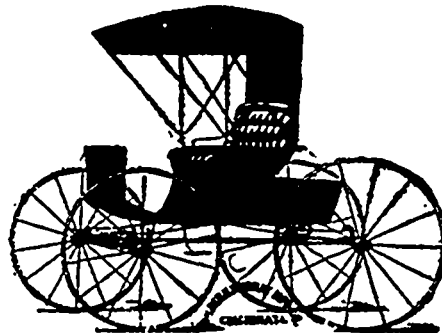
The sample mailing case is a good way to introduce fine goods. Be sure your shipment for the order equals the sample. Endeavor to secure permanent customers. They will recommend your goods to their friends. Those who harvest their share of the "summer boarder crop" will do well to place on the table frequently some of their best syrup, and the following season they will get many orders to fill from the best class of customers.

In marketing cakes, small packages are the best. Fancy pasteboard boxes holding 1 to 5 lbs with your name and address neatly printed on the end, is a good way to put it up for dealers. Some use basswood boxes holding 5 to 25 lbs. Cake sugar brings the most money, but costs the producer more. Set aside a sufficient quantity of the "first run" for table use in your family, also the last run for cooking purposes. Don't sell it, as by so doing you help to give consumers a wrong impression in regard to all maple products.—[F. J. Johnson, Windham Co., Vt.]

**Sugared Honey.** If extracted, can be liquefied by warming slowly. If in the comb it will have to be micked, comb and honey, and allowed to cool when the wax will be on top and can be removed. Great care should be taken not to injure the flavor of the honey. Comb honey should be kept in a moderately warm place where it will not freeze, but not in a cellar, as a cellar is usually damp. Candying of liquid or extracted honey is one of the best proofs of its purity.—[W. G. Larrabee, Vt.]

**Vermont—**On April 1, there was about 3 ft of snow in the woods around Bennington, so operations in logging were carried on briskly. An unusual amount of timber has been hauled from the woods of Bennington to the past winter, some estimates placing the quantity cut at 15,000,000 ft. Spruce is becoming scarce, but some hard wood is left.—Vt farmers use about \$100,000 worth of fertilizers annually.—In central Vt, but a very little sugar or syrup was made before April 1. Weather was cold and stormy. Although the season has opened very late, in some orchards, now is 6 or 8 ft deep. Deep snow as the ravages of maple insects are likely to result in another short crop of maple products. Not only have the ravages of insects decreased the quantity of sap, but the quality is also greatly impaired. Last year the Vt maple sugar makers' ass'n expected to handle 20,000 gals syrup, but received less than 3000, while stacks of orders were received and nothing to fill them with. Most of the sugar had been made last year at this time.—Gibbons & Guthrie shipped from northern Vt to Omaha, Neb, six double deck carloads of rams and ewes for ranches in Neb and Wyo. All were American Merinos except 50 head of Rambouillet rams. Sheep have wintered well in addition to the outlook is for a great demand among Merinos this year.

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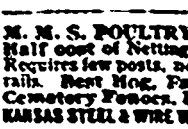
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