

is a good honey flow, the gathering can be continued and at the end of the season, there is no destruction of the hive, and hence very large apiaries can be built up. The old style was that at the end of the season there might be very numerous ~~bees~~ hives, and the only way to get the honey was to destroy the bees. This was done by smoking them to death with sulphur fumes.

So now let us see how it was done. There might be a dozen hives to be taken. A few of the better ones, were left with all its contents to supply the food required for the winter, & the same procedure for the next year. This work of "taking the bees" was always done after dark in the evening. The "torches" having been prepared, that is the sulphur having been melted, prepared pieces of stiffened paper was dipped in this, which quickly hardened. Now for it, a plentiful supply of sacks were provided, a large washing tub also over which a couple of sticks were placed, or perhaps a hole dug in the ground & the sticks laid ^{over} against these in the same manner. The torch is now placed in position, that is a piece of stick was required & partly split, into which to place the said torch. The other end might be stuck into a potato or sunk into the ground. In the case of the tub the potato would be cut so that the torch would stand in an upright position.

Now for it. The hives would generally be upon a fixed bench, and close to each other, slightly slackening the box to see that there was no delay the order was given, "Light the torch". It required little time to do this, but it was necessary to see that it was properly ~~slight~~ alight. Then quickly, generally, done by two, the box was lifted off the bench, as quickly placed over the torch, and still further as quickly covered over with the sacks that had been brought, so that no smoke might escape. Whilst this was being done, generally the bees that had been left on the bottom board on the bench, got to work, & if these were not removed as quickly there was some "warling and ~~knashing~~ of teeth," which indicated ~~some~~ there was some casualty. However this was all part of the game, & the "Blue Bag" was quickly brought into use. This process had to be gone through the same with each individual hive, as quickly as it was seen that the "lights had gone out" underneath. When all was over & the boxes taken a considerable distance away & carefully covered up, each ^{person} took his homeward way & to bed, after counting and dressing & removing any belated sting. Next morning, there would be a humid look over the battle field, and all the dead bees & as many of the live those that showed signs of life were interred & the litter left ⁱⁿ moved away.