

we have no reason to doubt that it will succeed, if for no other reason, we would assume, that the breaking up and leaving the colony in what might be termed an abnormal condition might cause them to neglect swarming preparations that would naturally obtain with colonies in the normal conditions. However, if, as is claimed, more honey may be produced from a given number of bees—in other words, if it pays—there is no objection to the plan on the score of throwing a colony out of the normal state. The expense of making the change of hives would naturally suggest itself, but the logical conclusion on that point would naturally follow the determination of the query, "Will it pay in dollars and cents?" Before making a wholesale change of outfit the apiarist with hundreds and thousands of dollars invested in hives will naturally ask himself whether the extra help required to separate all the frames of brood of all his colonies in the spring, and assembling them again in the fall, would not be as much or more expense than would be required to keep an attendant in each yard during the swarming season, whose odd time while not hiving swarms could be profitably utilized in keeping up the work of the apiary he had in charge.

Right here it may be suggested that it is the belief of not a few extensive bee-keepers that more colonies may be profitably kept in the average location than has heretofore usually obtained. If this be true, and the bee-keeper with one or more out-apiaries could increase the number of his bees in each apiary, an attendant could be profitably employed constantly during swarming time.

There is one plan of swarm control that has heretofore been the subject of discussion in more or less of a desultory fashion, but which seems to me to merit exhausted experiment by every apiarist who is now making a specialty of bee-keeping, and especially the comb-honey producer, and here I refer to the plan of having a queen of the current season's

rearing introduced into every colony that is likely to swarm just prior to the swarming season. It seems to me that this plan is the most fruitful of possibilities of any that has been discussed, and that concerted experiments by many apiarists with this means to arrive at the desired end cannot but result in much good to the craft.

It is said that colonies with such queens will not swarm. While this theory may not be absolutely infallible, the fact that an apiarist of prominence has practised re-queening with queens of the current season's rearing for the very purpose of controlling swarming lends strong color to the belief in the success of the plan. Here we have, then, something that is practicable, something the success and profit of which depends not entirely on the single factor of swarm control, but which yields a profit by reason of the better service of the young queen than we might expect from the average queen a year old or older.

There is seldom, if ever, a season when an apiary of a half-score or more of colonies will not have at least one and often several of them, very strong during apple bloom. In fact, swarms are by no means uncommon during this period, and ordinarily good queens are produced without the extra devices and manipulations employed by the queen specialist. At comparatively trifling expense the apiarist can easily equip himself with such devices as will make it reasonably certain to breed queens with precision during the apple bloom period. If the season of bloom is unfavorable to honey production, resort may be had to stimulative feeding of the strong colonies selected for queen-rearing in order to bring and keep them in the best condition for the purpose. With queens reared thus early there is plenty of time to form nuclei and build up colonies in time for the main honey flow from clover and basswood, which is also the main swarming season. Does it not seem an easy matter to thus provide early in the season a

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COMBATTING

(Read by D. Ch. O.)

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