

each case the time will be from 11 to 12 o'clock. Now, why is this? Simply because at this hour the sun shines so as to obliquely strike the east side of the combs, as these run with the entrance to the hive.

One other thing. As the sides of any queen is much more yellow than her back, a queen is much more easily seen when looking obliquely at her than when looking squarely on the comb or on her back, and as she walks about, while looking at her in this manner, her abdomen is sure to attract our attention, thereby causing us to see her when we would not otherwise do so. Having explained this matter so, I think, all will understand it, we will take out the first frame next to the east side of the hive, standing or sitting on that side.

For various reasons I prefer to sit down when hunting for the queen, chiefly because it brings the eyes in a more natural position for seeing over the combs.

To get the first comb out, if the hive has not a moveable side, commence four or five frames away from the side next to you, and with a heavy knife or screw-driver loosen the frames, pushing them a little from you so as to gain room to lift out the first one without injuring the bees so as to irritate them. Whenever the bees come up on the frame tops in a threatening manner smoke them a little, gently at first, thus keeping them in subjection, yet at no time give enough smoke so as to thoroughly frighten them. A little experience along this line will enable one to handle even the most vicious hybrids without stings or getting them excited.

Having the first frame liberated, gently raise it from the hive, looking over the side next to you as it comes out, for the queen, and as soon as it is out look over the other side, by looking obliquely from the top. Having made sure the queen is not on this frame, put it down outside the hive, or have another hive to place it in. In time of robber bees, the hive is best, throwing a sheet over it to keep the robbers off this exposed comb, but at all other times I put the combs on the ground outside of the hive.

Now remove the next comb, and as quickly as it is out of the hive, glance down the face side of the comb next to you in the hive, and if the queen is on that side of the comb, you will surely see her, for her first impulse is, upon the light striking her, to get on the other side of the comb and in doing this she shows herself to a much better advantage than she would if she kept still, the sunlight making her appear "as natural as life, and twice as big."

As soon as satisfied that she is not there, look on the other side of the comb you hold in your hands the same as before, and if the queen is not found, put this also in the hive with the first, or on the ground.

Now proceed with each frame as you did with the last one, bearing in mind that there is no need of looking at the side of the frame next to you after it is taken from the hive; for should you miss seeing the queen when looking down on the comb as it stands in the hive, she would, if there, get around on the inner side before you got to taking it out.

After two of the combs are out of the hive, I usually set the next on the side of the hive the colony occupies, which is next to me, for with two frames out, the sun can shine down between

the combs as well as if more were out. In this way it is a rare thing that I miss a queen in going over a hive, but if I do, I never try longer at that time, but close the hive and try again when the sun is right another day.

To show what can be done, if the above course is pursued, I will say that in six hours, during the middle of the day, I have found and clipped the wings of 40 black and hybrid queens, for a party who had concluded that he wished his queens' wings clipped; and I have reason to believe that any one can do as well after a little practice along this line.

To keep the sun just right, wheel the hive around a little, one way or the other for the time being, where you have to work five or six hours at a time.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y.

BOTANICAL.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

CHICORY.

ENCLOSED please find leaf and blossom of a strange plant (that is it is strange to me). I found it growing in a field of peas and noticed that my bees worked on it in the mornings. The plant, which must be closely allied to the dandelion, is about 27 inches high. The blossoms open at sunrise and close about noon, fresh ones coming out every day. What is it and has it any value as a honey plant?

Lake Charles, Ont.

J. DAVIDSON.

A specimen of *Cichorium Intybus*, sometimes called Chicory or Succory.

A perennial plant from Europe, two to three feet high, with large showy flowers, usually in pairs but sometimes single, purple in the bud, and when first unfolded, becoming sky-blue towards noon.

Naturalised in grass fields and roadsides rapidly becoming quite common. The stem is round, with a few long branches. The upper leaves become inconspicuous, the lower ones only are runcinate (like the specimen). Corollas flat and five-toothed.

The root is used in France as a substitute for coffee and in this country it is extensively used for adulterating that article.

It flowers from July to September. As a honey plant it is not considered of great value, but may be underestimated.

Of the specimens sent by your correspondent from Bracebridge—Miss Isabella Smith;

No. 1 is *Impatiens Fukea*—Jewelweed, *noli-metangere* (touch-me-not) and belongs to the family *Balsaminaceae*. Its name, *Impatiens*, is due to the irritable condition of the capsule at maturity which bursts at the slightest touch, throwing the seed to a considerable distance. A valuable honey plant.