

to give up, as I had the bee fever. I sent to R. E. Smith, Tilbury Centre, and procured a hive of Italians for which I paid \$8.00, and two extra queens and bees to form nuclei. So far so good. In the fall of 1888 I increased to six colonies all in good condition as to supplies, but one spent its force in raising drones, so in the spring of '89 I had five colonies only one of which was in first class condition.

✓ During the summer of 1889 I have increased to fifteen and have taken 140 lbs of section honey. Have not taken any honey from body of hives and all seemed to have plenty of honey (except one late second swarm) and good laying queens. Some of my colonies would not work in the surplus boxes but hung outside of the hive, idling away their time, while others were working away with a will.

I must tell you about the pranks of the beautiful virgin queen you sent me. I divided a first-class colony of eight racks, giving four racks and old bees from field to virgin queen, leaving her on the old stand, removing old queen and young bees to new stand. This was on 3rd of August and on 5th I liberated virgin queen, on the 10th she swarmed, taking about half of the bees with her. I opened the hive and examined it. I found six perfectly formed queen cells all capped over, I removed them, hived her ladyship in the hive from which she decamped and all worked well.

My hives are all on summer stands facing a little east of north. I believe in housing my bees providing a suitable place can be given them, but if not I prefer leaving them out of doors. I am in hope of giving a good report in the spring of 1890.

A. MICKLE.

Amherstburg.

✓ Your report is a very good one and you deserve much credit for your perseverance it is only those that persevere that succeed. If you had given up at your first loss you would have been without bees and considered yourself a failure whereas you have succeeded so well that you are on the road to success along with the rest of your class. You made one little mistake in liberating your queen. You should have looked for queen cells, as keeping her caged so long gives the bees time to build cells. If you had destroyed the cells before you liberated the queen she would not have swarmed out, but the bees refusing to allow the cells to be destroyed of course she would then swarm out and take such

bees as would follow her. By all means let us hear from you from time to time.

### Don't Raise a Surplus of Drones.

DOOLITTLE'S VIEWS ON AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

FROM what I have seen in nearly every apiary which I have visited in the past, I am of the opinion that bee-keepers lose very much of the profits which they might otherwise secure, by haying too much drone comb in their hives. Each colony should be allowed one or two inches of drone comb, but no more unless such colony is one which we wish to rear drones from for the improvement of our stock, and in this case I generally give from one to three frames of such combs. Where three drone combs are used in each hive, it is a rare thing that I secure any surplus honey from this colony, for the drones will secure nearly if not quite all the surplus honey gathered by that colony, especially if I try to have the colony keep these drones throughout the season. To

sure the colony will generally give some surplus right in the height of the season, but this must be given back for the drones, if they are kept after the honey harvest. I have given this item so that the readers may know just what a lot of drones in each hive will cost them. 'But' says one, if this is the case, why allow any drone comb in any but the colony which is to rear drones?' The reason for allowing one or two inches of drone comb to each colony is that all colonies which I have ever seen, will have some drone comb anyway, even if they have to tear down the worker-cells to get it, building drone comb in its stead. Now, where we try to exclude every cell of drone comb, the bees revolt, and build drone comb in out-of-the-way places, a few cells here and a few cells there, so that the bee-keeper has no chance of keeping unwelcome drones from flying, by way of decapitating them just before they hatch, unless he uses a drone trap, which thing is an inconvenience to the bees and their owner, generally speaking. By having this one or two inches of drone comb all together in a single comb, and that comb placed in a certain position in every hive, it is a very easy thing to open the hives every 23 days and decapitate all the drones in the whole apiary. By placing this comb on the outside, or next to the side of the hive furthest from where the brood-nest is, in the spring the queen will not lay in it until the bees become strong enough to compel her (so to speak) to lay in drone-cells. In this way drones are not produced in hives thus fixed till late in the season; and if left in this position, none