

what nine-tenths of everyone I meet like best, so that it can't be a *bad* honey. The timber is very valuable here, being close grained, white, and not inclined to crack or shake. It is what is used for the backs of all the best violins made in Europe; so if you want to see what it is like, examine the first good fiddle you see. If you would like to try if it will grow in Canada, I shall be happy to send you some seeds. In my opinion I think it is the best honey plant you could introduce. It blooms between apples and raspberries and gets bees in fine order for the clover, while the heather—if you introduce it—will be in bloom during basswood.

INTRODUCING FERTILE QUEENS. THE HALLAMSHIRE LAW.

For a long time now I have been trying to drive a simple law into British bee-keepers, by means of which *anyone* may safely introduce a fertile queen without any caging. I have met with the greatest opposition by all who profess to be authorities on bees. It is declared to be absurd, and all the abuse possible has been heaped on it, and yet, if every bee-keeper in the world was to get up and say I am wrong, I would still affirm its truth; also if I wanted to convince anyone that I knew a little about bees, I would prove it by putting this simple law in motion. Here it is: If bees have no queen and no means of rearing one,—that is they have no eggs, unsealed brood or queen cells—they will accept another, either dropped in at the top or given at the entrance, providing they have been in such a condition forty-eight hours. This law is infallible with bees of any age, at any time of the year, or day or night, and no matter how long they have been queenless, it will never fail, as long as the queen is simply given as stated, and no caging or doctoring is resorted to. Virgin queens can also be introduced same way, providing they are given at dark. If given in the day time and they have been amongst bees, though they are not molested, they take fright and run out of the hive.

I call this the Hallamshire Law. All my acquaintances are using it, and I know also very many more are doing so, having first tried it out of curiosity. I know it runs direct in the teeth of the teaching of many. It seems something like putting your hand in red hot lead, which can be safely done as long as the lead is red hot. Many old lead workers think because they know just melted lead will burn severely, it must burn much more so, if it gets red hot. Here we see the same standard of reasoning, if old and long queenless bees will not readily accept, a new queen by means of caging, they at once think it

would be so much worse to try to do so without the cage.

When I wish to introduce a queen and I do not happen to have a stock in the right condition, I simply remove the queen and all the combs containing eggs or brood; the brood combs I distribute amongst other stocks or use them in other ways; if there are not enough combs left I give more. Sometimes I divide the stock, putting the queen, brood, and half the bees in a fresh hive on another stand, then in 48 hours I give the bees the queen. I drop her in at the top and listen for a loud buzzing noise; if I hear it, the thing is done; if not, or if she happens to be balled if given at the entrance, I examine the hive for a stray queen. I have found very many stocks to re-queen themselves, particularly in the swarming season, when new mated young queens are about. Another system of direct introduction has been much puffed in this country, in which the queen is given at night (after thirty minutes fasting) of the same day the old queen is removed and without any brood or eggs remaining. This plan seems identically like what was first published by Mr. J. E. Pond, jr. Last season I carried out an elaborate course of experiments, to see what merit there was in it, and how much better it was than my law, as nearly all the boasted successes with the system were quite in accordance with it, *i.e.*, the bees had been broodless and queenless more than forty-eight hours. Well, here is the result. On carefully examining the hives on the third or fourth day, I invariably found queen cells; on the seventh or eighth day I found them sealed. If the queen was heavy with eggs, or in full laying when first given, she would always present the appearance of a non laying queen, proving conclusively that the bees had not accepted her as the new mother. After the cells were sealed she was generally allowed to destroy the nymphs, and in about eleven days she would begin to lay again. This was the rule, the exceptions were, that the queen cells were well protected right forward. In one I tore down, the nymph was fully matured and marched about in my hand, though the queen I had given was quite safe, but in many cases the queen introduced disappeared about the eighth day.

I had much better success in removing the old queen by lamplight at night, and giving the new queen at the same time, without any preparation whatever, but even in this case, queen cells were started.

The party under whose name it is put forward in this country, admitted in the *British Bee Journal* last summer, (see June 23, page 267,) that the bees showed signs of queenlessness and often