

The Canadian Bee Journal

Published Monthly

New Series
Vol 14, No. 8

BRANTFORD, CAN., AUGUST, 1906

Whole No
497

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Drone Comb in Extracting Supers.

That drone combs in supers are not together an unmixed evil has been brought forcibly to the notice of the writer this present season. While hundreds of beautiful combs of worker size have been plugged with clover pollen, it is quite pleasant to come across drone combs, which are, of course, invariably free from pollen. No brood was hoisted in my supers this year, yet the pollen nuisance is the worst I ever experienced, and it is quite a problem how to treat the large number of wired combs, which are comparatively useless in their present condition. Only two practical plans are suggested to me, namely, scraping them to the septum, and cutting out entire chunk filled with pollen. Quite likely the latter course will be followed, as it is less work and more wax is obtained, to say nothing of the fact (objectionable or otherwise) that the comb will be repaired with the same-size cells and will not be filled with pollen again.

"Red Clover Bees."

candidly, I don't take any stock in the above phrase. This year, almost

any day during clover bloom, a large number of bees could be seen working on red clover in a field only a few rods from the home apiary. In said apiary there are blacks, Carniolans, and long-tongued (?) Italians. Just as many blacks and Carniolans were on the red clover bloom as were of the Italians, and, judging by the empty supers, each race obtained the same amount of nectar from the blossoms. Only last week Mr. R. F. Whiteside of Little Britain was telling me that during the season his bees worked mostly on the red clover, and that at that time he possessed no Italians. Personally, I believe that one race will work just the same as another on red clover (some seasons), and I am sorry to say that very little nectar is obtained from that source, regardless of race of bees. To be sure, different strains of any race will show up better than others, whether it be in working on red clover or any other source of nectar.

Bees Quieter in Poor Seasons.

It is quite orthodox to say that bees are quietest when most honey is coming in. If such claims are true, then my bees are unorthodox in the extreme. For example, this year the home bees were nearly surrounded by a meadow. Haying operations were carried on all through the hot days of July, horses worked right up against the apiary fence, young bees, drones et al of 100 colonies making great roar