

BEE-KEEPING IN MANITOBA

By R. M. MUCKLE, Inspector of Foulbrood and General Apiarist for Manitoba.
(Continued from page 19 July issue)

Hives

There are a considerable number of different makes of hives on the market; some being more suitable for certain conditions than others.

The Langstroth hive is the recognized standard throughout the American continent and it is advisable for a beginner to adhere to this standard.

The modern hive has eliminated crude and cruel methods formerly resorted to; and in their stead we have accessibility to every part and can take their honey without destroying our little servants and without a sting if we are careful.

The hive in its simplest form consists of a floor or bottom-board, a hive body or box to hold the brood frames, and a lid or cover to shield the hive from the weather. In addition to this, an entrance board or cleat should be used so that a wide or narrow entrance may be used, depending upon the season.

In the best regulated apiaries hive-stands are used for holding the hives. These stands protect the hive bottom and hive from unnecessary exposure to the ground and consequent rot. It is important to have a hive stand sloping to the ground in front so as to provide an easy runway into the hive.

Besides the hive body or brood chamber either extracting or comb honey supers may be used. The comb honey or shallow extracting supers are only half the depth of the hive body. They can be used either for comb-honey or extracted honey.

The Super Most Generally Used

The super most generally used is a regular full depth extracting super, which is in every respect the same as the hive body. By use of supers one part can be piled on top of another in such a way as to accommodate the largest colonies and the largest yields of honey that may be secured. The modern hive, therefore, is capable of all degrees of expansion to accommodate any colony or any honey crop. Some large colonies will store enough honey to make a hive four or even five stories high.

The beekeeper should, therefore, keep on hand a sufficient number of supers to place on his hives so that the bees may have room at all times in which to store their honey. If the hive is

too small, the bees will stop work when it becomes filled, thus causing loss to the owner.

Frames and Foundation

The hive contains the frames on which the honey comb is built. The Hoffman self-spacing frames give the best satisfaction. By using self-spacing frames, labor is very greatly economized, as the frames can be handled in groups of two or more and when set in the hive can be shoved together at one operation without the necessity of fingering over each frame to get it spaced exactly the same distance from others.

Bee Diseases

Bee disease is one of the problems that beekeepers in the U.S. and Ontario have to contend with. Fortunately for us in Manitoba, our bees are almost free from disease. American and European "foul brood" are the most harmful diseases of bees found on the American continent. These two diseases are caused by germs that attack the hatching brood, killing it, and thus proving very harmful.

Spring chilling of brood sometimes is mistaken by beginners for foul brood. If, however, dead brood is found during the warm part of the summer, it would be wise to have your apiary inspected by the government inspector.

European "Foul Brood"

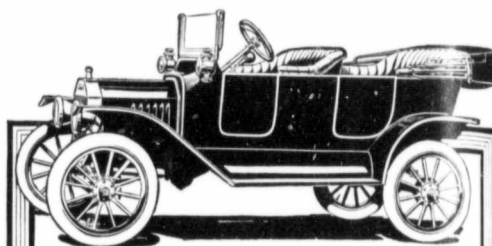
European foul brood is most prevalent in the East. So our risk of infection is from imported bees. It attacks the larvae earlier than does American foul brood, hence only a small number of the diseased larvae are ever capped. Those that are capped over have the sunken and perforated appearance, as in the case of the American form.

After death the affected larvae turns first yellow, then brown, finally almost black. When the tooth-pick test is tried, the decaying matter very rarely stretches out in a long thread.

There is very little odor from the decaying larvae and it is not nearly so noticeable as the "glue-pot" smell of American foul brood. The pure bred Italian bee seems to be immune from this disease. The remedy then is to Italianize your apiary. This can be done by killing the black queens and introducing properly mated Italian queens in their stead.

American "Foul Brood"

In ordinary conditions the dead larvae are removed by the work-



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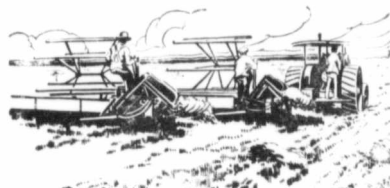
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