

colony was fed 25 lb. of stores in the fall, which was consumed, together with what they had gathered the following season before swarming. They build too many queen cells to suit me, and as I had understood that they were bad for having fertile workers, I thought it best to discard them. Sensitiveness to pain deterred me from trying either the Cyprians or Syrians. Not so, however, with the gentle Carniolans. I was induced to give this highly praised race a trial. How could one think of not doing so when so much has been said in their favor? How could we be a bee-keeper and not wish an experimental knowledge of "the gentlest bees in the world?" And who would object to the "tons of honey" which this race has been said to gather? Well, to get this experimental knowledge I ordered upwards of a doz. queens, so as to give them a fair trial. Some of these were lost in introducing, but there were enough remaining to convince me of their inferiority, and the outcome is I have no desire to possess another Carniolan, and I think I have removed from an apiary of 180 colonies every trace of them. W. Z. Hutchinson once said in substance (this was early in the season) "if they proved to be as anxious to fill up the hive with honey as they were then to fill up with brood, they would be all right"; but "there's the rub." They are certainly very prolific, but with too much proneness to swarm. The very thing I have been aiming to avoid is what this race seemed most inclined to do, viz: "swarming with empty cells in the hive." This tendency to swarming is admitted, even by their best friends, but they claim it is the necessary outcome of their prolificness. This is a one-sided truth. I want prolificness in a queen as much as anyone, but before this develops into the swarming fever, I want every available space filled with honey even to building up in the covers when possible. The queens are, no doubt, great layers, rendering queen excluders indispensable in the production of comb honey. I have had them even go over the top and behind solid wood division boards. One writer, at least, claims that they are easily found. This is contrary to my experience. On new combs it may be so, but the queens are too dark to show by contrast in combs as black as themselves. Like black's they are too inclined to withdraw from the light and to retreat to the corners of the frames, and too frequently from there to the bottom of the hive, followed by the bees, each endeavoring to get away they knew not where. Time is too precious to occupy much of it in finding queens. To choose this race in preference to selected Italians, is, in my opinion, a

few steps backward. While there may be some truth in the assertions that they gather less propolis, are better defenders of their hives and hardier to winter, yet, the difference in my experience is not worth considering. All things considered, I prefer selected Italians. My intention is to continue to select, and breed from the best, and thereby perfect a race that is or shall be unequalled.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Fences for the Apiary—Spring Protection, Etc.

I WAS much interested in answers to Queries Nos. 205 and 286. Mr. C. W. Post brings out a good idea, that the location makes a great difference. I know from experience that that is true. Tight board fences are perhaps the cheapest, but they are unsightly. A lattice fence made of lath and painted costs but little more, and are just as good for a wind-break, I think better. With such a fence your yard is not so hot and close in the summer, and a stiff gale has no force after passing through a lattice fence. It "chops the wind" all up. I have a lattice fence on the south, and a tight board fence on the west and north sides of my apiary. I think I shall knock the boards off and put on a lattice. None of my fences are over six feet high, and I would not care to have them higher.

Mr. Deadman thinks 9/16 thick enough for the walls of a D. W. Hive. I think 3/8 thick enough, and I would sooner have the inner wall $\frac{1}{2}$ than thicker. One inch lumber re-sawed and planed is about right. I prefer that the space between walls be 3 inches, but 2 inches will do very well. If the space were more than 3 inches I should want it 18 inches or 2 feet, and of course that would be out of the question in a D. W. hive. A single walled hive, with outside packing case for winter has many advantages over a D. W. hive, but to take it all round I like a D. W. hive best, (that is when they don't weigh over 30 pounds when filled). As outside shells for single walled hives seem to be attracting some attention just now, I will describe my packing case. It may please many who use the same style of hive that I use (The Richardson). With a slight modification it can be used for any S. W. hive. I make a shell of 3/8 lumber 22 inches wide (outside measure), and 18 inches high. Front and back cut the proper pitch to fit the roof boards of the cap. You know that the hive I use has a loose sun cap, the frame of which is considerably larger than the hive and