

## Beekeeping in B. C.

Continued from page 979

drawn out comb, full or half sheets of foundation should be placed in the frames, I smear the foundation with a little honey and feed for a few days, it gives the bees a good start.

A lot of attention is given the bees to keep them warm, we are now in the midst of the season when it is advisable to provide shading for the hives. Hives painted a light color is a means of protection against the heat of the sun, metal covers should have a protecting board underneath, as metal attracts that heat. Enlarge the entrance of hives during summer, fewer bees will be required to ventilate the hive.

Many beginners are under the impression that the first swarm being a new colony is lead off by a young queen, anxious to start housekeeping on her own, this is not so, the prime or first swarm is headed by the old queen about the time the queen cells are capped over, cold weather will sometimes delay swarming, and the bees will destroy the queen cells, but as soon as the weather is again warm, more cells are constructed.

### INTRODUCING QUEENS.

There is a time during the life of a colony of bees when for one reason or another the queen plays out or is killed accidentally by the beekeeper. Should this happen when there is brood in the hives the bees at once commence to rear a new queen, and all is well providing there are drones to fertilize the new queen. But supposing the beekeeper wishes to introduce a queen which has been reared in some other colony, and has come through the mails, or which he has taken from another hive in his own apiary. Bees are queer creatures and cannot be depended upon to accept a new queen just by dropping her amongst them; so that various ways have to be adopted to introduce her to her new home. Should the queen be in a mailing cage full directions for introducing are usually sent along with it, but there are so many qualifying factors to be taken into account that failure is often the result even though instructions are carefully followed out.

The most important point in queen introduction and upon which all the experts are agreed is that the best time to requeen a colony is when there is honey coming in from the fields. Any and every method will give good results during a honey flow.

A queen taken from a colony and at once placed into another colony which has been dequeened usually is accepted but once the queen loses that fresh hive odor the safest way is to cage her in a queen cage and let her hang in the new hive for two days before releasing her, which must be done quietly and with as little disturbance as possible. Here is an absolutely sure way of introducing a queen although it requires much more labor than the other methods. Take two or three frames of brood ready to hatch, brush all bees from them and place in a new hive. Now put this hive without bottom board on the top of a

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strong colony, but be sure to separate the two by screen wire with the queen excluded under the wire screen so that no bees from the lower colony can get up above, because we do not want the bees from the lower hive; we only want the heat to rise so that the brood which is hatching shall not become chilled. When the young bees begin to hatch out, run in your queen along with her attendants or just take the plug from the cage and she will find her way out. In the course of a few days there will be quite a nice little bunch of bees and your queen will be laying. The hive can be taken away and put in its own bottom board when most of the brood in the three frames has hatched, and a new colony made. A frame of brood given when the bees can take care of it will assist in building it up to a nice colony.

JOHN BROOKS.

A good thermometer has many uses on the farm. The temperature of the pantry should not be more than 50 degrees, and that of cellars should not be allowed to become less than 32 degrees; 35 degrees is a good temperature for cellars. When buying a thermometer, select one which bears the name of the maker, and which has a Fahrenheit scale etched on the glass stem.

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