

slow nectar secretion. This happens at a time when the queens should be extra busy laying the eggs to hatch winter bees. Now, I want you to understand that at this time the second growth clover, golden rod and buckwheat give ample inducement to breeding. I pick out 10 of the stronger colonies, move the hive to one side, and substitute on its bottom a body containing five frames of nice white combs and place on either side a frame of best white honey. In the centre is put a frame of brood on which is a queen cell from best queens. An alley drone trap helps to find the old queen, as the frames are partly shook free from bees, placed in another hive body and moved to the stand of one of the other ten hives, which have been moved just as wanted. These last ten hives lose all old bees and are better off without them. These old bees, returning to the old stands, where the brood and old queens are, work so hard that they nearly all die before winter. This leaves two-thirds of your hives entirely of young bees. The other third, strong in bees but no brood, bestir themselves in earnest and are only surpassed by the young queen. One queen of this kind in my yard this September filled two-thirds of four L. frames in three days, and that hive is the best and heaviest, with only 12 lbs. of sugar in syrup fed. At time of writing there are no more than two or three dead bees on the bottom-board of any hive, which is so far so good. Will tell you better next spring.

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Cayuga, Ont.

RAISING QUEENS

[By Wm. L. Couper, Sask.]

Requeen! Replace all queens over two years old! Improve your stock! How many articles in the papers devoted to apiculture have insisted on the necessity for requeening, and how many honey-producers have tried diligently to follow that advice? I can answer for one. I have tried a good many methods of rais-

ing queens so as not to interfere unduly with the honey harvest, and have come to the conclusion that I can buy queens far cheaper than I can raise them.

If only they were as good, but as far as my experience goes they are not. I have bought queens from several different breeders, and only on one occasion have I found one up to the average of my apiary. I think I have read statements to this effect in articles by two well-known bee-keepers in one of the American bee journals. In their case it is hardly surprising; they have been improving their stock for many years, and it would be remarkable if they did purchase a queen showing any marked superiority to those of their own raising; but that I, a comparative tyro, should find the same thing, needs some explanation. I think it lies in the fact that a queen sent a long distance by mail deteriorates. I have seen casual reference to this in bee journals several times, and I believe it to be true. In support of this I may mention that the one really satisfactory queen purchased by me came in a two-frame nucleus, and that the daughters of these purchased queens, whether raised in artificial, swarm or supersedure cells, have invariably proved better than their mothers.

In writing this I certainly do not wish to deter anybody from purchasing queens by mail. In my case a queen sent by mail from the nearest breeder will be at least three days on the road, and as we only get mail once a week at our P.O., it is obvious that if the connections are unlucky she may have to lie in the bags considerably longer. I merely speak from my own experience; that many others have had better fortune is abundantly proved by the testimonials so many queen breeders publish.

I have about a hundred colonies. To replace queens that are too old or below the average, and to make a small increase, I require to raise sixty to seventy queens. That may be simple enough to the professional breeder; to me it means a considerable expenditure of time, the

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