

aware that this is contrary to the accepted rules of cellar wintering, but I have never lost a colony in this place. I may add that the floor is clay and very damp. I am told that bees may be successfully wintered here, by scraping out a trench on a hillside, placing the hives in it covering everything with straw. I have not tried this plan or seen it tried, but similar experiments have succeeded in the States.

In conclusion I would say to people who think of trying bee-keeping in this country: Don't start on a big scale; go slow and make the bees pay their way; don't trust too much to enthusiastic reports and finally don't try to crowd an established apiarist. That form of 'hogging' meets its just reward—a short crop.

William L. Couper.

Assinaboia, N. W. T

Prevention of After Swarms.

Continued from last month.

which makes a break in the usual emerging of bees for that length of time, so that, when the bees from the young queen begin to emerge from their cells, the hive does not contain bees of all ages, hence such a colony rarely ever swarms again that season unless more prolonged than we generally have it in most parts of the United States and Canada. But where a virgin queen is given, or a laying queen supplied immediately after the prime swarm issues, this break in bees is not very pronounced; hence colonies having such queens given them are quite likely to swarm with a prolonged honey-flow."

"But with a honey-flow of shorter duration would it be an advantage?" I cannot think so. Where the

honey-flow is mainly from one or two sources, as it is in this locality, I think such giving of a queen a positive disadvantage, for the larvæ from her eggs are fed on honey which the bees are gathering from the fields, which otherwise would go into sections, that these larvæ, when matured into bees, may become useless consumers of the honey of the hive, they having come on the stage of action after the honey harvest from bass-wood is past, and before fall flowers think of giving any honey."

"Well there is more to this subject than I had any idea of. But explain a little further how it works in your locality where the bees are allowed their own way."

"Where a colony has its own way, no honey is consumed by larvæ for twenty days; hence that much more is saved to the beekeeper, and the break in bees comes just at a time when their labor is not missed, no honey harvest being on at the time they become field laborers, while there are enough bees remaining in the hive to care for all the brood the young queen produces, and this brood matures into bees in just the right time to take advantage of the honey-flow from fall flowers."

"I think I see now. You think the advantage comes in raising the bees to meet the honey-flows as they come."

"Yes that is the point, exactly. A 'weather eye' sufficiently skilled to secure the maximum of bees just in time for the honey harvest, and as few at all other times as is consistent with this object is something worth coveting by every practical apiarist. And this can be done only by a thorough understanding of the inside working of a colony of bees, in connection with an equally thorough understanding and knowledge of the location or the locality we are in,