

winter bees on that kind of stores alone. We fear it would prove to be too near a relative to the "cider-mill" difficulty that some of our friends have experienced. As you look at it in the combs, it looks as red as a cherry, and has much the same flavor as raspberry wine.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE HONEY SEASON THUS FAR.

INTRODUCING QUEENS, ETC.

AT this date, August 10th, it looks as though this season's honey production in Canada will be below the average. The clover certainly is. Buckwheat is mostly to come yet and there may be a good showing from that source at the end of the season; but the staple flora yielding the lighter grades are about gone for this year. As, however, the season is from two to three weeks behind time—hay, crops, honey bloom and everything being that much behind—the Fall yield of honey may probably be abundant and prolonged. So mote it be!

INTRODUCING QUEENS.

This is a hackneyed topic among bee-keepers and every season regularly brings the usual redundancy of journal literature on the subject. But this is all proper enough. In the queen centres the greatest interest of the apiarist, because she is undoubtedly the most essential factor in bee culture. The sight of a handsome queen thrills the bee-keeper with about as much pleasure and emotion as the sight of a handsome woman thrills the properly constituted specimen of the *genus homo*. And this is right in both cases. Little wonder is it then, altogether apart from his profit and loss account, that every good beeman loves his queens and is so anxious for a sure and certain method of introducing them safely to their new duties, domiciles and denizens thereof! For although he is pleased to upon the living queen whether, virgin or matron, he is equally pained to look upon her dead. We all remember our feelings on finding her dead body in the morning just in front of the alighting board. After the sorrow and pain have a little subsided the next impulse naturally is a bitter resentment against her murderers; but as this does no good and is withal absurd, we have only to recover our philosophy and try to do better next time—blaming ourselves instead of our wards. Of the various methods of introducing queens, the bee-keeper who has many colonies to attend to, and whose time is, therefore precious, must pursue the one that is expeditious as well as safe. He cannot afford to spend as much time in introducing a queen as would

suffice to hive two or three swarms of bees or extract a hundred pounds of honey. Of late years I have been in the habit of taking the following "short and easy" method of introducing my queens: I go with the queen in a little wire cage to the hive which is to receive her, and after lifting the quilt and puffing in a little smoke I thread a little honey all over the bees and tops of the frames out of a little longitudinal cage down lengthwise on top and between two frames and thread some honey over it too. By this time bees, queen and all are busy sipping up the honey. I then gently place one finger on the cage and with the other hand deftly pull out the paper or cloth cork of the cage, all hands being meanwhile intent on the sipping. I then stand and watch a minute or two, again threading more honey over cage and frames and as the queen quietly crawls out of the cage I see that a thread stream of honey from the tin in my hand descends upon her as she slowly crawls down between the frames. I then quietly lift the cage and very gently turn down the quilt leaving the bees busy with the tribute of honey. This all occupies from three to five minutes and the work is done. I must, however, admonish the inexperienced to go slow in adopting any such short and easy method with valuable queens. Do as directed all but releasing the queen. That can be done in a day or two—going through the same process. For myself I only venture to thus summarily release about one half of those I introduce. The experienced hand can almost invariably tell whether it would be safe to release at once or not. He knows his colony, its condition, temper, the weather, time of day, etc. and acts accordingly. No bee-keeper, to succeed, need expect to merely read the journals, put on a "straight jacket," and go by "rule." "It won't do." The authorities can only be aids to his own judgment.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Aug. 10th.

You are quite right Friend Pringle about the value you set on honey "threading," as you term it, over the bees. Those who may not have a proper vessel may use a pitcher or coffee pot. We recollect one instance where they had tried for nearly a week to get the bees to accept a queen and they would "ball" her every time unless released at once; at every attempt they appeared to get worse and a number of efforts were made without success, but