

chamber, and evidently save honey and bees. But there are very few that practice this, and the removal of extracting supers is considered immaterial with a large number.

The losses occur when the beekeeper extracts honey as long as the season lasts, and then depends upon the bees to make a living through the rest of the year. The bees will do this many times; then there are seasons in which they will not do it, and in such cases there are losses that exceed 50 per cent. of the colonies.

A superannuated queen is a dangerous factor to commence the winter with. She usually fails in the early Spring, and the result is a fertile worker, queenless colonies, and colonies in which the aforesaid workers are plentiful in many apiaries, and the loss from this cause is some times 10 to 15 per cent.

With careful management, as first described, there is no use for beekeepers to loose but a trifling per cent., or to lose none.

Bees are able to fly here every day in the year. If there are any exceptions, it is during a day of heavy rain, and an all day's rain is of such seldom occurrence that the bees are free to fly.

Upon the whole, California is a most balmy State in which to manage bees, and even though losses may sometimes be heavy, through bad management, the recuperative powers of a continuous honey flow are such that the empty hives are soon filled with bees and a considerable field of honey obtained. The process of getting the honey is so easy that beekeepers who have been careful, neat and tidy in the East, become shiftless in management here.

The wintering question, though not of such paramount interest as in the East, will still bear study here, and care must be exercised in order to obtain the best results.

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Prospects.

From the poor prospects of the present season's honey crop, a great many, no doubt, are getting tired of waiting from year to year for a good honey flow. It may be a little consoling to know that other lines of businesses and occupations are having their darkest sides out. Drought

and frost has done damage to others than the apiarist.

A question every bee-keeper might ask him or herself now is, how could I have secured a larger surplus? or, in extreme cases how can I secure enough honey to winter the bees without having to feed sugar syrup or would it pay to extract the honey and feed sugar syrup for winter?

First, I will say that I believe that the honey bee in the hands of many breeders has degenerated somewhat to a short lived and tender bee.

Longevity of bees should be the greatest mark to aim at in breeding queens. Taking six weeks to be the average life of a worker bee, and to be three weeks old before she commences field work. Suppose by a little careless selection and breeding the bees of a queen live but five weeks, and by a careful selection and breeding the bees of another queen live for, say seven weeks during the working season. (I have found greater differences than the above).

It will be seen from the above that the carefully bred bees will have four weeks at field work while the others will have but two.

Would it not be reasonable to suppose that the longest lived bees would gather double the amount of honey. Some might say that the lazy bees would live the longest and be a guide to breed from them, but I doubt if the lazy bees will live the longest any more than a saloon loafer lives longer than an industrious man, because he did not work. He as well as the bee will wear themselves out at something, even if it is not to some good.

Second, too much swarming may mean no surplus honey, and probably have the weaker colonies to feed for winter. It will have to be an extra long and good season when you are obliged to have more than one swarm from each colony. If you will replace on the old stand the first swarm with the remainder, or nearly all of the bees shaken from the frames of the old hive and the old hive moved to a new location. The above plan will many times give you a surplus, as you get all the working force in the one hive.

Third, Sufficient stores may many times be obtained without feeding by removing the queen about August 1st with one frame of bees, and placed in an empty hive and allow a young queen to be reared who will be an advantage to the colony for next season by being young and probably more vigorous than her mother. As it will be about four weeks before the young queen will be laying in the hive after the old queen was removed, there will be a four weeks' hatch of young bees less to consume