

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

HOW TO GET RID OF DRONES.

2 **N**C E in a while in the apiary it becomes necessary to get rid of a lot of objectionable drones. The other day I found a colony infested with a large number of these lazy fellows with the good digestion. I wanted to get rid of them forthwith. As I had hardly ever hitherto had occasion to deal with Mr. Drone in that particular line of extermination I had to cast about for a short and easy method. I had read of a plan of placing a Jones Bee guard in front of the infested hive and then shaking the drones off in front when the workers would crawl in and they would be excluded. I had tried this once and it did not work: their drone-ships took wing and as, under favorable circumstances they seem to be free commoners, they soon found board and lodging elsewhere. It therefore occurred to me this time that it would be well to shake the lads inside the hive instead of outside of it. I accordingly got an empty hive placed a Jones Bee guard over the entrance, and set it immediately in front of the drone colony and facing it. I then smoked the latter thoroughly when the drones as usual clustered together on one side of a few of the frames. I then proceeded to shake the drones off the frames into the empty hive, first brushing the workers, as many as possible off the reverse sides of the frames and watching carefully that the queen was not put in with the drones. Of course there will unavoidably be quite a number of workers put in along with the drones; but they will crawl out through the bee guard and re-enter their hive while the drones will remain imprisoned. The guard must be fastened in position so that the pressure from within will not displace it. It is also necessary to jar the blockade of drones from the entrance occasionally so that the workers may pass out. The entrance can be thus cleared by tipping the hive back and striking the back end of the bottom board against the ground smartly once or twice. The workers will mostly pass out by sun down. If not the next day will fetch them if they are shook up occasionally and the entrance cleared.

1 **I**n shaking the drones into the hive use a cloth cover as it is more convenient in keeping them in. If they gather up around the top of the hive and on the underside of the cloth while you are getting the next frame give the hive a violent jar and shake them all to the bottom. If any fly out while you are shaking the frame in it will mostly be the workers and them you of course want out. This may not be an original process, but I do not remember having seen any mention of it in the journals. At any rate it seems to be a good plan to get rid of the drones.

At this writing, 20th Aug., the weather is cool again and the buckwheat flow quite checked. Still there has been no frost yet, though last night was very cool. The four or five days preceding the 18th they gathered freely from buckwheat, catnip, thistle, sweet clover, some second bloom of the Alsike and a small final instalment of the white clover. These will all perhaps yield something further should the temperature get up again soon. As to the Buckwheat it is not more than half through.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Lennox County.

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A DISCIPLE OF NATURAL STORES.

IN a recent issue of the C. B. J. you remarked that the reason for feeding sugar syrup for Wintering is that it is a more valuable winter food for bees than honey. I also find that Messrs. Root, Heddon, Hutchinson and a great many others have the same opinion. I will give you my experience in trying to follow those bright lights in apiculture. In the Fall of 1883 I had forty-two stocks. I fed thirty-two of these sugar syrup as they only had about half the honey I thought they would need for wintering. Now for results. The ten which had all honey came through all right. Of the thirty-two which had part sugar stores I saved eleven and there was not one good swarm in the lot, and some of them, if left to themselves, would have died before September. Last Fall the basswood honey flow stopped short leaving me again with some colonies short of stores. I had sixteen colonies which had enough honey to winter on, thirty-two were more or less short of the weight. After feeding some sugar syrup according to the directions given by D. A. Jones, at the Toronto convention of 1883, I concluded that there was a screw loose somewhere as the hives did show much improvement in their condition. So I took my scales into the yard on a cool day when few bees were flying, and carefully weighed the hives, marking the weight on the side of each. I then fed to twenty-six colonies 186 pounds of sugar, which when made into syrup would weigh nearly one half more. After which I tried them on the scales again. The result was only a gain of 128 pounds. As sugar cost 8c. and honey sold at 9c., you will see that that I lost money on that deal. However, I fed them all up even and started into winter with sixteen stocks with pure honey and pollen stores, and thirty-two which had "sugar in theirn." All weighed alike with the exception of two or three. All were used alike in Winter and Spring, but again the honey-fed bees came out ahead. All alive and