

was with the common black bee which gave us fine results in the old box hive, and which wintered very well "standing on their heads" (bees inverted) in a house built for the purpose above ground and filled in with saw dust. Since that time I have had about twenty years' experience with the Italians, Syrians, and different crosses. So far as my experience has gone it coincides with the conclusions Mr. Jones has arrived at in regard to the superiority of the crosses over the pure races.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., Nov. 26, 1888.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Are There any Markings by Which we Can Conclusively Certify a Pure Italian Queen.

THE above question may have no particular value to the worker for honey alone; what he wants being a queen that will give him hardy docile bees that are good workers; but to those who desire purity it is of great importance. So far as the black bee is concerned, it matters but little now, there being no call in the market for such, but the yellow varieties have so many marks in common, that the old rule or test of Italians, viz., three yellow bands is no longer of any weight whatever. Experiments in my own yard prove that the yellow varieties will all throw three bands, and that by crossing the Italian with the Cyprian, or other yellow bee, we get the three bands more distinct and beautiful in color, than by preventing such crossing.

In one view of the case it matters little. If three bands alone are wanted, it is easy to get them, but to the man who wants the Italians and nothing else, is there any test that can be applied by which he can assure himself that he has just what he wants? It is said we can get pure Italian bees from Italy; perhaps we could once but can we now? I don't know myself. I do know however, that I have bred, and can breed again, far handsomer bees than any I have ever seen produced by an imported queen, and from a queen six or seven generations from the imported mother.

If there is any rule, I would like to know what it is, and so I presume would very many others.

J. E. POND.

North Attleboro, Nov. 27, 1888.

No matter what kind of printing you want, it can be done at this office. Visiting cards, bill heads, envelopes, pamphlets, note-heads, anything. Write for figures.

Indian Forester.

## A CURIOUS FIG TREE AND CURIOUS BEES.

A NEW country is entered on the ascent of the Mukso range. The soil is dry and rich, and the forest changes completely its character. A few trees of Nagasar continue, but soon become intermixed in dark shady glades with the gracefully rounded clumps of fig, (*Ficus triloba*), the large leaves of which, with their ferruginous, velvety surfaces, are truly lovely. On dry, grassy slopes, and on the more open forest tracts, another fig is met with (*Ficus congolobata*.) This tree, throwing toward the ground its fruiting boughs, succeeds through the aid apparently of ants in having its fruit completely covered with the loose, rich soil in which they are ripened. On the boughs of this tree a curious bee was found, which, ant-like, had constructed its hive by sewing two or three leaves together. The insect was very small, and had a curious greenish metallic lustre. Thinking this to be an ant that perhaps preyed upon the smaller species, supplied with food by the fig in return for services rendered, I was about to catch hold of it, when one of my coolies told me not to do so, as the bee stung very badly at first, but lost this power after a time. This local wisdom dictated a course of procedure that greatly astonished me. The hive was struck gently with a stick once or twice, the adventurer rushed off as hard as he could between each attack. By-and-by, deeming that the bees had got over their fit of ill nature, he coolly went up and cut the hive off the tree, the bees crawling over his hands all the time without stinging him."

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

### REMEDYING QUEENLESSNESS IN WINTER.

C. WURSTER—I am astonished that men like D. A. Jones, and Prof. Cook, of Lansing, should, on page 653, Nov. 7, make such replies to an enquirer as "not to bother the colony but wait till spring." For what? to be sure to find anything but live bees, why not advise to supply them with a queen at once or unite with some other when it is known for a certainty that the colony is queenless? I never yet saved 50 bees alive of a colony that was queenless on the approach of winter till spring, and I have tried it a good many times. They never cluster close and seem to fret themselves to death, and are always more restless.

Klienburg.

Our correspondent cannot have read the query understandingly. The questioner asks what to do to remedy queen-