

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

QUEEN REARING AGAIN.

ANOTHER PLAN FROM CALIFORNIA.

 I am writing to you on business, I thought I would write you a few lines on our pet hobby—bees. I have been in the bee-keeping business for more than thirty years, but it is still, as it has been for many years, the chief avocation of my life. And as a good queen is the sheet anchor of successful bee-keeping, I am naturally much interested in your method of rearing them. But your idea that a colony having bees enough for three or four good colonies will raise a better queen than one that is only good and strong, is new to me. I am well aware that they will raise *more* good ones, but did not think they would be any *better*. I have sufficient faith in you that I shall test it, and hope it may solve the problem that has puzzled me for many years, viz: — why so few queens, raised even under the most favorable circumstances, are not fit to breed from. I used to think that the fault was in me, and that I didn't know how to raise them, but in handling quite a number of queens from some of our most noted breeders, I soon discovered that their's were no better than mine. Outside of queens reared under the swarming impulse, I prefer Mr. Alley's plan. Last year I reared my queens on an entirely new plan, with decided success, the bees building them right in the queen cages in the nursery. I made queen cages like the sample I send you, with the two holes and a door. Just as soon as one of my choice colonies commenced making preparation to swarm, by starting queen cells, frequently containing only an egg, take a screen wire, a little larger than the top (large) hole, and lay it on top of cell, drop a few hot drops of wax on the wire so as to cement the cell to the wire, then hang the cell in the large hole in the cage, place the cage in the queen-nursery, open the door by letting it swing down, and set it in the hive, in the centre of the colony, when the bees will rear it just as naturally as though it had never been moved; then just as soon as it is sealed over I would put some of the "good" candy in the right hand side (or small hole), close the door, and the bees not being aware that the cell is in the hive, as they cannot touch it, will go right along rearing more for an almost indefinite time, if you take them away just as soon as they hatch or just before. It is really surprising how long you can keep a colony under the swarming impulse from swarming and the amount of good cells they will build with this system of queen-rearing. My experience is

that a queen cell will stand a good deal of rough handling, if not chilled, without injury, until they are sealed, or until several hours after they are sealed, then they should be handled with extreme caution until within a day of hatching and I would much rather cut them out and handle them before or just as soon as they are sealed, before their cocoon is finished, and they have located themselves for their final and great change, from a larval to a perfect bee, than to do so at any time after two and until some six or seven days after. With my plan, all the handling they require after the little larva is placed in the cage, until they hatch, is to close the door and put in the feed (~~the latter need not~~ be put in until after they hatch), although I always do. You say you have two short-hand reporters. Now, Friend Jones, don't fail to tell one of them each week enough about "Our Own Apiary" to fill not less than a column, and more if you wish. Can't you tell them about the merits and demerits of the different strains of bees, such as the Cyprian, Holy Land and Carniolians, as compared with the Blacks and Italians, as no doubt you are better qualified for that task than any other man in America, if not in the world. Wishing you success in your efforts, I remain

J. F. FLORY,—110—200,

Lemoe, Tulare Co., Cal.

The plan of raising queens in queen cages is new to us. We almost fancy from the description, however, that it will be more labor to do it in that way, than to practice our method. Each queen cell has to be cut out and caged. Now would it not be just as well to wait until you had from 25 to 100 cells ready to cut out; then open the hive and do all at once, caging them in your queen nursery, where they would be hatched and cared for. We have sometimes had more than 100 thus caged in a hive all hatched within a day or two. It seems quite reasonable that they would care for the cell and hatch a fairly good queen. The climate being favorable in California, perhaps they would not require the same attention that they do here, and perhaps fewer bees in a hive, would raise queens quite as satisfactorily as with an immense number. If the queen *should* hatch before we examine them, they will not be