

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Good Word For Carniolans.

AS we have a wet day and not much to be done outside, I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along with the bees. The colony arrived here on the 20th day of June 1889 in good condition, and on the third of July it cast its first swarm, and on the 16th the second came, and on the 18th the third, and on the third day of August the fourth came away. As I wanted to increase, I hived them all and run the risk, as I was a new beginner, I attended them the best way I knew how, well, about the last of September I opened them and found all the queens, and saw that they were in good condition for the winter, having their eight frames well filled, so I took the surplus off the top and extracted 64 pounds of honey. I think I succeeded not so bad for a greenhorn. I then went to work and made five outside shells, allowing about five inches for packing around the hive. I tried three kinds of packing, wheat chaff, dry sawdust, and small shavings, and left them on their stand, and they all came out in spring in good condition. I had A. Hille's device and cushion with super over them. We had a cold winter and a wet and cold spring. I may say bees did no more than keep themselves all summer. I increased to twelve and got no surplus until after the first of September. I examined them yesterday and took about 100 or 150 lbs. of surplus. I believe we will average about 25 lbs., spring count, and be in good condition for winter. You told me the queen was an Italian mated with a Carniolan drone. I believe them to be a good race of bees, prolific, and good honey gatherers, and very gentle to handle. I have often handled them without smoke, veil or glove, without getting a sting, but the colony that C. W. Dickson got from you in the fall of '89 (we work together with them) I would not care to go and open them without veil and gloves. They were a cross of the Syrian, and were cross sure enough. I could not compare them to anything only the specie of the tiger. When they swarmed and got clustered, before you got within ten yards of them they would dart at you so thick that it would be almost impossible to see out through the veil. You could hardly tell whether swarm was on the tree or on your head. So about the last of August we took away the queens, and sent for three Carniolan queens from Pratt, of Massachusetts, and introduced them all right, and

they are doing well, notwithstanding Brother Shucks' opinion of the Carniolans. I took a nucleus we got from Pratt into my yard. I got it about the last of May and it was very wet and cold all of June, so they did very little in June. They built up in July, and cast two fine swarms in August, and filled three hives. Now they are in fine condition for winter, with eight frames of honey in each. They are very gentle to handle. When I open them I find the nest sticks to their combs; they are easily brushed off, and are good workers, out early, and at work late. I had a colony that took that nameless disease in June. They would come hopping out of the hive and could not fly and their abdomen seemed swelled. They seemed to dwindle down very fast. I used salt and water, 2 oz. to one pint of water, but it did not seem to stop it very much. I then decided to kill or cure, so I went to work and put on four hands full of salt into about a gallon of water and put it into a watering can with a fine spray and opened it up and put the contents of it all on top of the frames until it was running out of the entrance. I done that twice and now they are all right and in good condition, and strong. About the first of August another strong one took the disease and were dying by the hundreds. The Carniolans were swarming, so I took Doolittle's plan took a frame with a queen cell and put an excluder on the top of the hive. She came out all right. I put an entrance on the opposite side to the main one and moved them up the country and got her fertilized all right, there being plenty of drones in the original hive. The new queen was a fine one, so I pinched the head off the sickly queen, and put this one in her place. They have a fine lot of brood now.

D. W. CULTON.

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We are pleased at the success of our subscribers whether they purchase their supplies of us or of any one else. Your recommendation of Carniolans will gladden the hearts of those who have been "backing" Carniolans against the field. For ourselves we do not prefer the pure breed, but rather such a cross as we sent you.

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Sugar Feeding

SHOULD NOT BE TALKED ABOUT IN THE JOURNAL.
SEMI GRANULATION A WORSE TROUBLE.

YOU ask for my report, but I think there has been too much reported already for the good of beekeepers. If a farmer or merchant makes a good profit on anything, he does not publish it, but quietly pockets the