

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

Mouldy Combs--Transferring.

YOU asked me in your answer to my letter if I was looking for the two dead Italian queens that I stated were dead. I was not. I merely took the lid off that sits on top of frames, but before I moved it I could see that there was frost on the glass and I knew that they were dead. I have not moved the boxes out of the house yet. Should I move them out? I looked in about the 10th of March and found some of them very wet on the bottom of the box and the water would run out so I raised the back end of the box and took a wire and pulled all the dead bees out. Some of them had about a pint and those that were dry had very little dead. They all seemed to be cleaning out and there was considerable dirt. Should I take all the dead bees out of the house? I asked you in my last how I would move the bees out of the old fashioned hives and also how to use the comb that is in them and what time is the best? They seem anxious to get out and when I was cleaning out the ones near the door, I had to leave it open to see to clean them out and it was cold and they could not fly far but they dropped. I took a dry brick and placed it at the hole to keep them in till I would get through with the rest of them. On Saturday I bought a lot of old boxes and frames and comb, some of which is mouldy and moth eaten. They have not been used for about three years. The bees that were in them were smothered. Will it do to use the combs for new swarms? Tell me the best way to get Italian queens in all of them. I have ten alive and would like to get them as cheap as possible as I have not made anything out of them. Give full particulars how I will work it. I suppose you would say the best way would be to get them when changing out. Does it make any difference how the hives are set in summer, facing the north, south, east or west. I have not let my bees out yet, but if the weather continues as it now is I think they will be able to get out this week. I am anxious to see how they will turn out. I think I will have to feed some of them. They seem to be light but they were heavy when put into winter quarters. Some say that they eat more when they are too cold. I will report to you frequently about my own and others' bees if it is of any use to you.

SUBSCRIBER.

Varna, March 19th, 1888.

We seldom do any transferring before fruit bloom, then all the good and suitable combs may be transferred into frames when the weather is warm enough for the bees to repair them. We

should not care to use mouldy or moth-eaten combs three years old even to put swarms on, they would be as well placed on foundation. It would take them longer to repair the old combs than to draw out the foundation, besides whenever there are moth webs in them the bees will cut them down in order to get them out. If there are any perfect combs that have been kept dry and free from moth webs they might be used or rendered into wax. The cheapest way to get queens is to buy spring queens in the swarming season, you can get them very cheap. We usually set our bees facing the south and east. If the weather is very warm after the snow is gone you might set them out for a while, but we do not believe in leaving them out until pollen can be found, so unless to see that they have sufficient stores it would be scarcely worth while. When they are wintering well they should be let alone until the weather is settled.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

EXPERTS VS. AMATEURS.

THERE not the opinions of the "experts" very perplexing for new beginners, and are not the bee journals more for beginners than experts. Bee-keepers are like all other men, everyone wants his own way, and when we read the convention report each has a hobby. There they never come to definite conclusions, but merely talk nonsense for their own amusement, discussing at length such questions as: "Do runaway bees select and clean a tree before leaving the parent hive?" What has that to do with making money with bees? Us farmers that "keep bees" have to smile a little, and sometimes we listen with fear and trembling lest we should be deprived of our beloved pursuit that of keeping bees, along with our farming. We cannot build fences that will keep bees on our own farm and the specialists will buy corner lots, monopolising the whole, when the law is made in their favor. Tut, tut mon! I have been a bee-keeper all my days, and I am forty-one. For more than twenty years we have used movable frame hives, and I think I have as good a right to keep bees as any specialist, although we do not keep many swarms.

Here are my hobbies: I do not want more than twenty or thirty swarms to start with. I will sell off to that every spring. Will use nothing in the future but Langstroth hive for it is just the thing for extracted honey (and