

true, yet Mr. Davenport is an extensive producer and doubtless knows what he is talking about. While the so-called "shook swarming" plan is practised by many, it has many drawbacks well known to all that have used the plan. Much was expected of Mr. Sibbald's modification of the same system, yet, while it undoubtedly has worked well with Mr. Sibbald, as near as I can learn, it is not in much favor with a great many who have worked along the same line of management.

There is, according to some, too much of a "dribbling" process in getting a large force of bees to work in the supers on the old stand. With the original "shook" system the full force of working bees, as well as most of the young ones, are thrown at once in the hive with supers on, i. e., at the old stand, consequently better work is done than is the case when the same stock is reinforced gradually by the moving of the parent stock from time to time.

What is Mr. Davenport's system? Ah, the provoking part of the tale is yet to come. Mr. Davenport has not yet decided if it would be to the interests of the bee-keepers to make the plan public. Say, Mr. Davenport, if you are afraid by so doing that you would offend the fraternity, won't you take the liberty to write out the system and send it to the writer in a sealed envelope? Don't know but that I would be willing to invest in a stamp for the forwarding of the letter, but you know Uncle Sam wouldn't pass a letter with a Canadian stamp attached.

#### A Libel on the Carniolans.

In "Gleanings," March 1st issue, Mr. Doolittle makes some charges against the Carniolans that will cause admirers of that race of bee to wonder if Mr. Doolittle is not influenced by the fact that he has Italians to sell. The most of us have known for some time that if Carniolans are kept in small

hives they are more inclined to swarm than Italians, but it will be news to the majority to hear of some of their other failings as recorded by Mr. Doolittle.

For the enlightenment of an enquirer from Montana, after telling of the various markings of the Carniolans he has had, he says, in answer to the question as to whether they are good honey-gatherers or not: "The individual bees might be good honey-gatherers, but the trouble was I could not get enough of these individual bees collected together at the time our honey harvest was on to do more than gather honey enough for the feeding of the brood." After telling how they would use all the honey they gathered for feeding brood, he further says:

"When the harvest was past they would starve unless fed with sugar syrup or combs of honey from their thrifty Italian neighbors." Poor things! Why, Mr. Doolittle, I have seen just the reverse of the case. Have known of some blessed Italians reared not a thousand miles from Borodino that had to be fed from their "thrifty Carniolan neighbors." While some have not liked Carniolans on account of their swarming propensities, previous to this all I have ever heard express an opinion on the race have claimed that in one point they excelled all other races, and that in the matter of building up quickly in the spring. In my own opinion, almost any spring, I think even a novice could pick out the Carniolan colonies on any day the bees were working by merely telling them to notice a certain number of extraordinary strong colonies.

Messrs. Post, Holtermann and others have told me the same thing in regard to this trait of the Carniolans. No, I haven't any Carniolan queens to sell, neither have I five cents' interest in any queen-rearing establishment, yet I believe in giving "even the Devil his due."

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