

to compare favorably with the stingless bees of the tropics in the matter of complete worthlessness.

It is twenty years since the writer had the honor to be introduced to a colony of these meekest of the meek in all beedom. They were as gentle and docile as a sick lamb. Their docility was exceeded only by their laziness; but nothing could exceed in completeness the perfection of this latter trait. While supers tiered up from three to six, and even eight upon colonies of Italians, black and Carnio-Italian crosses, not a section of surplus could the gentle Caucasian be induced to store. One of the assistants in the apiary used to say that they went to the basswood forests at meal-time to eat but returned with empty honey sacs; and the condition of the colony throughout the season would justify such a belief.

It is obviously true that the foregoing instance is insufficient to condemn the race. We find inferior strains cropping out in any and all races; but, in view of the fact that not a single bee-keeper in all these years, in all America, who makes the production of honey any considerable business, has adopted the Caucasian as his choice, and in view of the fact that very adverse reports have been made in several instances, does the reader deem it the part of wisdom at this time for our Government to "seed" the country with Caucasian blood? Even the Cyprians have their admirers among honey producers (and heaven knows they are bad enough) but let us hear from one or two Caucasian admirers with certified reports of their honey crops. We're listening. Hark!

Editor Root has for some time had a Caucasian in his bonnet. They are well adapted to the requirements of a first-class bonnet-bee, because they will not sting. In a recent number of *Gleanings Bro.* Root refers to this new hobby, again, as follows:

"I have just asked our Mr. Mel. Pritchard, who has charge of our bees, how our imported Caucasians are doing, and how their temper is compared with that of other bees. He says they are unquestionably the gentlest bees he ever handled. He has mauled the hives around in all sorts of shapes in cool weather and the bees paid no attention to it. He

can hardly make them show fight."

Now, if people kept bees merely for the pleasure of mauling them around stroking their fur and caressing them like a poodle dog, all this would be an incentive to put in Caucasians. But, as a general rule they do not. Most bee-keepers are like Dr. Miller—they prefer some honey, even if a few stings come with it. However, continuing to comment upon this interview with Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Root says:

"But they are unsatisfactory in one or two other respects. They do not know enough, he says, to take syrup out of a common feeder in the hives when they are short of stores. He has been trying to make them put the syrup into combs. But it is the old case of leading the horse to water, that wouldn't drink."

If Mr. Root's Caucasians are similar to those with which we have had to do, this trait should cause no surprise. Imagine a Caucasian going afoot upstairs to get something to eat out of a feeder. Hardly. Try thinning it just to the consistency of nectar Bro. Root, warm it nicely and use a camel's hair brush individually. Dip the brush into the warm food and politely offer it. We think they could thus be induced to take sufficient to sustain life at least.

Mr. Root concludes his comment thus: "Another thing, if the weather is a little cool they will not venture out of the hive until an hour or an hour and a half after the other bees are out in the air. This may or may not be a desirable trait in chilly weather. At all events Mr. Pritchard thinks the bees are too good natured to be good for anything, and that this particular colony will need a lot of nursing to bring it through winter. On the other hand, the climate of the Caucasus regions is about the same as that of Italy or Florida. If the bees are able to survive in Russia they might not live through in our climate. Even if these bees are not quite equal to Italians for honey-gathering the fact that they are so very gentle will make them in demand with a large number."

We think, Mr. Pritchard is wise, and that he is a prophet, but we do not agree with Bro. Root that the mere trait of gentleness is sufficient to establish the Caucasian in favor with even a few.