

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

BEES DOING WELL.

JNO. LINKLATER.—My bees have done well this season. From six colonies I have now 25, and will have 300 lbs. of extracted honey. I received the queen from the O. B. K. Association in safety and I have raised from her a good many queens.

Grand Valley, Aug. 20.

S. JACOBS.—I started this spring with 16 colonies, increased to 24; took 250 lbs. extracted honey but no comb. Basswood was a failure. The last two weeks they have been doing nothing. Golden rod looks well, but it is not out yet. The nights are cold.

Ridley, Ont., Aug. 21.

HOW LONG THE QUEEN LAYS.

BEGINNER.—Does a queen lay eggs all the year?

No.

A QUEEN'S LIFE.

How long does a queen live?

We have had them live five years and over, but the general life of a queen is two to three years.

Do young queens lay drone eggs?

Not if she has been mated before she begins to lay, but sometimes they lay them before.

LONGEVITY OF WORKERS.

How long do the bees live?

From sixty to ninety days in the working season, after they commence, but while in a state of inactivity in fall, winter and spring, they might live from six to nine months. We hardly think a worker ever sees its anniversary.

THE BEST BEES.

Which are the best bees to gather honey?

Ask twenty poultry men which breed of hens will give the best results, and you will get twenty different answers to suit twenty different breeds. We prefer a cross that will give us good honey-gathering qualities, not forgetting minor details.

SWARMING.

WM. H. WETHERBEE.—Will you please inform me through the C.B.J. at what date it is desirable that bees should swarm. I have read that the earlier they swarm the better. I have also seen it stated that it is advisable to delay swarming by taking brood from the strongest colonies to strengthen the weakest ones.

Granby, P.Q., Aug. 13, 1888.

It depends solely on the season and locality. Swarming usually commences here about white clover bloom, and continues till the end of basswood bloom. We sometimes have swarms during fruit bloom in spring but unless the weather is very favorable, would prefer not to have them till white clover bloom. Then again they occasionally swarm in the autumn when gathering from buckwheat or fall flowers, but this season has been an exceptionally poor one for both swarms and honey, and we had very few swarms until our honey bees commenced on the fall flowers. The time they swarm here would not be suitable in more southern localities. June and July are generally the months for Ontario.

GETTING BEES OUT OF SURPLUS BOXES.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Please answer through the BEE JOURNAL how bees can be got out of surplus boxes of 20 to 30 pounds without injury to the bees.

Use smoke to drive the bees down and out of the box, as well as possible; then remove the boxes, when most of them may be driven out by smoke. By placing the super in a box or barrel, and covering it over with a thin cloth, the bees will run up to the light on to the cloth, and by turning it over a few times all the bees may be got out. Some carry the super indoors and allow the bees to pass out of the window, while others raise it on a cool night about an inch or more above the hive, leaving one corner to touch so the bees can run down. Some raise it two or three inches, putting a small piece of comb under the super on top of hive for the bees to climb down on. Most of them will go down in one night, when the super can be removed in the morning before robbers make their appearance. If you have boxes of 30 pounds of honey you certainly are more fortunate than most of us. If we had the honey it wouldn't take us long to get the bees out of the supers.

CONVENTION NOTICES.

The next meeting of the Haldimand Beekeepers' Association will be held at Fisherville on Saturday, September 1st, at 1 o'clock, when the following questions will be discussed:—1. How to feed and what to feed. 2. How to unite colonies. 3. Report of season. 4. Question Drawer. A full attendance is requested.—E. C. CAMPBELL, Sec.