

perfect, the demand among consumers would be stimulated.

There are few farms where at least a small number of colonies could not easily be kept, and an additional source of income provided, without any interference with the established routine. We wish that the matter might receive general attention, and the keeping of bees become as regular a portion of our farm economy as the keeping of poultry is now.

Provide a good store of food for winter, and then protect your hives from the weather. Bees are just like other live stock—they will consume a greater amount of store for fuel when exposed to severe cold and unbroken winds.

Study the bees. You can learn much by watching them, and the more you know about their ways the greater success you will have in handling them.—*Rural Canadian*.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Yellow Bees.

WE cannot at this day pick up a Bee Journal, but about the first thing that meets one's eyes is an advertisement something like this, "Golden Italians," or "Five-Banded Golden Italians," etc., etc. Now, are we not, in the race for color and beauty, leaving behind some of the more desirable traits of the Italian bee? I am aware that these five-banded breeders claim that they do not lose sight of other merits, such as honey gathering, breeding up at the proper time to catch the honey flow, etc.; but I fear their claims cannot be proven. I will admit that these yellow bees are pretty to look upon, and the beekeeper who sees them wants them; and the queen breeder, if he wishes to satisfy his customer, must send him a yellow queen that will produce yellow workers. But is not this all wrong? Is it not just a sort of craze we have gone into, that we all want these bees that are pleasing to the eye? I should very much like to have bees that are pretty and yellow in preference to the homely leather colored; I mean, provided the former were as good in every way as the latter. But, alas, are they? I should like to tell you that our yellowest bees are the ones that gather the largest crops of honey; but when I come to think of it the colonies that secure the most honey are those that show only three yellow bands, and these bands are not of the bright golden color, but rather dull or brownish,—just about the color of the workers that are produced from an imported queen.

Does some cue say. "I have not tried yellow

queens from a reliable breeder?" If so, I will say that we (my brother and I) have purchased tested queens from a breeder whose integrity no one who knows him would doubt, and one who does not advertise five-banded, etc. Yet the bees are as pretty as any one need care to look at. None of the bees from this strain, however, have equalled, as honey gatherers, those of the imported strain. I believe that in time we shall have a yellow race of bees that will be as good as the best, but let us not be in too great haste. We must not expect this to come about in a year or two. Our finest strains of cattle and horses, as well as of other live stock, have not been bred up to the high standard now attained in a few years. It takes time.

I would not discourage those that are breeding for fine colors; but let us not encourage it too much by asking a queen breeder for the yellowest queen he can send us when ordering.

Before ordering a queen, let us write to the breeder and ascertain by what method he rears his queens. If he will not give his method, write to some other breeder, and never order a queen reared by any method that does not insure a perfectly developed queen.

I am no admirer of black bees, but for honey gathering qualities I would give more for a black queen, perfectly developed, than for the best strain of Italian, provided the latter has been in the least neglected at any time during development.

I would state here, however, that we must not expect a queen that has travelled a long distance in the mails to be as good as she was when taken from the hive in the breeder's yard. She may be, but it is the exception rather than the rule.

For this reason we should rear queens from her as soon as possible, and test their progeny before condemning the queen or the one from whom we purchased her.

Let us rear our queens by the very best methods. Let us breed for all desirable qualities and beauty along with them; but if anything must be left out let it be the fourth and fifth bands rather than some of the more desirable traits.

S. E. MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo., Oct. 25, 1892.

The A.B.J. says that Henry Alley sounds a warning against introducing queens producing five banded bees. "As surely as you do it, your apiaries will be ruined, and you will soon give up keeping bees, in disgust."

The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is a safe and reliable authority for Canadian Beekeepers.