

PREVENTION OF SWARMING.

—A. G. WILLOWS.

The subject discussed in the the May "Parliament" is, in my opinion, one of the most important subjects before the practical apiarist.

I did not write for that "session" because I am so undecided as to the best course to pursue, that I felt that I could not give advice that would be worth anything to others. But after reading the articles contributed I would like by your permission, Mr. Editor, to present a few thoughts, partly by way of comment. Should you not judge them worth a place in the JOURNAL you can give this to "the dog."

Seven writers took part in the discussion. Three go in for one swarm per season to each colony. The other four advise the prevention of swarming as far as possible by giving shade, plenty of room etc. I wish to cast my vote with the majority, not because I want to be with the majority but because I think they are right.

Mr. Deadman "hits the nail on the head" in the first sentence of his second paragraph. We are all after the largest yields of honey with the least labor, but his plan of hunting up all queen cells and destroying them to prevent second swarms is too much labor now-a-days and besides the second swarms do not always wait till the eighth day if for any cause the prime swarm has been delayed a few days after the first cell is sealed.

Where the honey-flow is so short as it is in this locality—four to six weeks—usually commencing about June 15th, if they are allowed to swarm there is not time to get them built up in proper shape again to take the most advantage of the short season. But if they do get the swarming fever, then let them swarm, and get the swarm built up as strongly as possible at the expense of the parent colony so as to get all the surplus from it.

I would caution against Mr. Myers' plan of placing the old stock on the top of the surplus cases if said cases contain sections that will be approaching completion before the old combs can be removed. Last season I placed some old combs above sections, where I did not wish to put on any more sections, and the result was that about half the material used in sealing them was taken from the dark combs, looking very much as if the bees had been out in the

mud and then gone to work at capping them without cleaning their feet.

John Collins must have got the long looked for non-swarming race of bees or else his system of management must be perfect.

I will give the plan I am working on this season. Although not altogether new it may be found to have some new features.

Three or four weeks before the main honeyflow commences take all the combs from the brood-chamber, except one or two that have very little brood in them but with the brood ready to hatch, and place them in an upper storey, taking care to leave the queen on the comb of brood left below. fill up the brood chamber with empty combs or foundation put on a queen excluder and the brood taken out above it. They should be nearly ready to swarm before this is done. In about three weeks, or when the honey-flow commences raise the upper story and put on a case of sections or extracting combs if extracted honey is wanted, and as soon as they get nicely at work in these, take off the brood combs, putting on more surplus cases as needed and keep them, to be given after the season is over, for winter stores. The brood will all have been hatched before they are ready to be taken off and they must be taken off before any sections are ready to cap.

I intend putting these combs on again as soon as the surplus cases are all off, putting them with one comb of brood and the queen *above* the queen-excluder and leaving them until the brood is all hatched below when the combs below are taken out and those above to be placed in the brood-chamber again for winter.

Carlingford May 16, 1894.

I am much pleased with the improvement in the Journal. It was about time it got into the hands of *live men* that will keep it to the position it is worthy of in this beloved country of ours. I keep bees on a small scale. I have at present 23 swarms in the cellar, all in good condition. Will not put them out till about the middle of of April. Wishing the Journal every prosperity.

L. BROWN.

Hampton Ont, March 26, 1894.

Enclosed I send one dollar to renew my subscription to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for one year commencing with No. 350. Much success to the C. B. J.

JOSHUA BULL.

East Farnham, Que., April 24th, '94.