

The Difficulty of a Beginner.

I wrote you a few days ago, telling you that from being utterly unable to get all the brood combs replaced in the B chamber, on account of their being built out so thick, I placed the extra one with all the bees adhering in the new hive. I kept it warmly wrapped up at night, and, the days being very warm, I thought some of the brood might hatch out, but the bees kept gradually leaving it and returning to their old hive; so yesterday morning (the third day) some of the bees seemed loath to give it up, and on examining it closely I found it so full of young brood in all stages of growth, that I was loath to lose them if they could be saved. So I took two more combs out of the old hive and placed one on each side of it. Of course they were covered with bees. Replaced them by sheets of foundation, exchanged the position of hives and covered them up; (of course being very careful that the queen was not on the combs we moved). They seemed all right and were working later on in the day, but of course one hive is queenless.

I received the journals last night, and read about foul brood arising from dead larva, and I feel uneasy lest some of the larva in that first comb should be dead. Now gentlemen I would like you to criticise or advise me through your journal. Have I done right, or should I have let the comb go, and not risked separating bees? If I have done right or i. I haven't, and you think it advisable, I wish you would send me a tested queen by mail, as it would save the time they would require in raising one. I wish it could get here by noon mail on Saturday, which would prevent it laying over Sunday. We are ten miles from the Sound, but have opportunities almost every day to send down with some one. We have a weekly Tuesday mail right to our door, from —, and if you can be sure that the queen gets to — on Monday, so that she can come up with the Tuesday mail, you could address her here, but if you missed Tuesday's mail, she would lay over for a whole week; but I could surely, by sending an order to the postmaster, get her from the office. If I knew just when to go to the Sound for her, I would be all right, but it is so far away that it is very inconvenient. If it gets to the Sound in time to catch Tuesday's mail, all right for this post time, but if you are not sure, perhaps it would be better to send to the Sound. I am

a woman, and my husband has shares in a mill and several farms, and is too busy to undertake any responsibility about the bees, so you see, with my two little girls and my domestic duties, I have little or no spare time at my disposal; but I am going to keep more bees and less cows, and if I can winter these safely, I will get one or perhaps two colonies more next spring. I would like if you would send me samples of your new-process foundation, and anything else that would help an amateur bee-keeper. If these bees swarm this summer, I will need more supplies.

In the hive you sent me, one of the brood combs is broken off at one end, and has to be held up by a small block of wood, and two others rest flat on bottom of hive. Now don't I run a great risk of killing bees or even the queen, in putting them in B frames. I have looked them over four or five times, and yesterday I did not see the queen at all. Nothing could happen her unless with said frames. I remember she was on the bottom of comb the last time I saw her, and I did not notice until yesterday that the combs sat on the bottom; but of course she might have been there and me not see her. On some of the combs the bees were piled two and three deep.

I hope I have made it plain about the queen. There are five heavy brood combs almost full of brood, and three frames with foundation, with queen on one hive. There are three heavy brood combs, with adhering bees, and five frames of foundation in another, queenless. There seems to be a wonderful lot of bees in both hives.

I have read the two journals almost from cover to cover, and feel sure that they will be an incalculable help to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. GEO. SIRR,

Parry Sound District,
Ont.

[We wrote you some days ago that you should have been able to get the combs back where they came from. Crowd the combs in the hive together a little and put the least bulging comb into the hive last. However, as the colony is very strong, there is no great objection to dividing the swarm. If you have only one and wish to increase, this will overcome any possibility of losing a swarm. In dividing we should leave the least brood, say 2 out of 8 combs, in the hive, on the old stand; also put the queen there, and shake over half the bees there. The balance of bees and combs we