

now, 'tis a pity our friend D. A. Jones went to such a great expense to introduce such a vicious and worthless race of bees. They are so very prolific that they will spend the whole summer till away in the fall rearing brood and storing very little honey. Crossed with the Italians, some of them are very good honey gatherers, but it always requires two to work with them, with facility, one to use a smoker constantly.

Pure Syrians will allow you to stand before their hive without molesting you, and you can open their hive bare-headed and without smoke if you are careful enough, but woe-betide you if you jar a comb or crush a bee. It is impossible to shake or brush them from the combs without an attendant and plenty of smoke. Another bad thing about them is they are so apt to get drone laying workers, if only queenless for a few days. We crossed them with Italians, and my son Eli having learned the bee business by this time, we were able to work with them pretty well, he all the time protesting though and longing for the old Italians. With this cross we obtained as large yields of honey per colony as we ever did with any race of bees, but growing tired of their stinging propensity, we concluded to try the Carniolans. We ordered a Carniolan queen from Dr. Morris in 1885. The next year he sent us two others. The second queen the Doctor sent us produced such very gentle bees and good honey gatherers that we soon had our whole apiary Carniolanized, and thought we would never want any other bees. But we soon came to the conclusion that Carniolan bees are nothing but a very gentle race of Black bees, and not a distinct race at all. Although they have some fixed and peculiar habits, they are gentle to a fault. Why it seems difficult to cause them to sting at certain seasons, when the honey is coming in plentifully. Go at them bare-headed if you choose and without smoke; shake, brush, and even crush some of them, and they will not resent it. They were not all so gentle though, and it may be such swarms had a little Black blood mixed in, as it would be difficult to tell it by appearance.

Now, I have told all that is really good about them, that is, wherein they differ from other races. They are just as nearly like the Black bees in everything else as is possible for them to be. Splendid honey gatherers when all the blossoms are dripping with honey, and when they do not have to fly far or work hard to get it. Splendid comb builders, capping their honey so as to appear white, and if it becomes necessary to smoke them they will run out of their hive. They do not work on red clover to amount to much, and

here let me say I believe all Black bees ever seen working on red clover had Italian blood in them, for we know that in some hybrid swarms, some of the bees are perfectly marked three banded bees like pure Italians, and others are perfectly black.

Carniolans are not proof against the moth. They are apt to get drone-layers when deprived of their queen for any purpose, and they are much inclined to swarm.

In view of all this, in 1888 we ordered one of G. M. Doolittle's best tested Italian queens and Italianized our whole apiary, and now we are going to quit. We don't and never will want any other bees. We have drawn a long breath and feel happy again.

Carniolan and Syrian bees winter and come through the spring well, because they do not commence to rear brood early, while Italians do sometimes begin brood-rearing rather early, but they need no other stimulation than plenty of sealed stores, and they are ready for business at the right time. I believe common Black bees are next to Italians in this respect, but when Blacks get strong they are bound to swarm.

A cross between Italians and Carniolans is good (in fact we have reserved a few such swarms for comb honey) and they are gentler, but taking all things into consideration, nothing in my experience equals pure Italians.

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Your remarks in reference to Carniolans being a race of Black bees, are quite in line with the opinion of many others who have bought them. Few people can tell the difference between them and Blacks, and doubtless many who intended to send out pure Carniolans, sent out home-reared queens that were crossed with the ordinary Blacks. The Black bees of Eastern Canada and those of the Western States are the same American Black bees, yet our Eastern bees are blacker and slightly smaller than Western bees. The Brown Black Bees of Missouri and the West are often spoken of as a different breed. We have compared them and find but a slight difference. They are a little larger and somewhat lighter, verging on a brownish tinge, but this, we believe is owing to climatic influence, food and surroundings. Some claim that the brown or black bees of the West are more docile and better honey gatherers than ours of the East, but the difference, we believe, is due to climatic