

Before concluding I may say that with regard to the wintering problem I have no fear, cellar is slightly damp, but I do not consider that any great disadvantage as long as the temperature is high enough, and always the same. With bees in good condition, as regards plenty of good stores and strong in numbers. Of course if temperature of cellar rose and fell in sympathy with the weather outside, the dampness would be almost certain death. Thermometer has stood at an average of about 44 degrees. very little above or below that point since bees were put in the cellar, and as long as temperature keeps at that, I see no reason to be afraid of any serious winter losses. For ventilation I have a pipe from within six inches of bottom of cellar, and connecting with stove pipe above to draw damp, cold or foul air from the bottom, and make room for pure and fresh air coming in; but although not afraid of the winter on my own account, I believe there will be heavy losses this winter among farmers and others who keep them on the let-alone principle, and neither take the time nor the trouble to know what condition they are in. There are a lot of people in this country keeping bees who never cut out a queen cell or return a swarm to the parent hive, and who cannot be made to believe that two colonies can be united without them killing each other, and after such a season as the last one was, bees that were allowed to follow their own sweet will, are sure to be in poor condition to stand the winter, and must in the natural order of things suffer seriously if not become a total loss. Let us not, however, rejoice over the misfortunes of others, although the losses of such will be to the advantage of the practical everyday bee keepers, who spends his time and talents in the business, for it is the farmer and the small go-as-you-please bee-keeper who always cut the prices and spoil the market for the men who are trying to build up an honorable business, and make their bread and butter out of it; but generally speaking the farmer spends nothing on his bees, and looks at anything he gets from them as so much clear profit, and on going to market takes the first offer, and that in trade, whatever it may be, and is happy for bees work for nothing and board themselves, a sad delusion as all know who are trying to make a living by keeping them.

ALEX. BLACK.

Sonya, Dec. 24th, 1890.

You are quite right, friend Black; the point you make about sealed combs is well taken. Few of our bee-beepers imagine the value of such combs to

them; too many fancy that extracting the honey out means so much extracted honey on hand, and at the current price a pound, can reckon up how much they have made, when the fact is that if they had a portion of their crop sealed in combs, as you have done, for putting in their bees in the fall to give each one ample stores for wintering and then for spring feeding, one or two seasons would convince them of the benefit.

Your cross Carniolans have been hybrids. Pure Carniolans have not the cross disposition you speak of, neither have they, as far as I can see, the disposition to rob. I never had pure Carniolans do it, but I have had crosses that would rob like everything. It is a very difficult matter to tell a cross between the Carniolans and the black bees except by those who have given the matter much attention, and I think that hybrids are often mistaken for the pure races. A cross between Carniolans and Italians is much better than between Carniolans and blacks. There is no doubt of what you say that the pure Carniolan is not equal to our best Italians, or what we term Italians in country, which have a slight tinge occasionally of Syrian.

There is one point which you do not mention which I think necessary, that is, to take some steps to prevent the eggs being matured into little drones. I recollect trying to see if the bees would destroy the eggs, but found them feeding and caring for them, and in a short time, if allowed, the capping over of full combs of drones, this necessitated unnecessary consumption of stores, put the combs containing the eggs in a cool cellar for 24 hours, or put in a tub of cold water, and allow to stand for a short time, after which throw the water out of the cells. This prevents the eggs from hatching and will kill any larvae in the combs, which the bees will readily remove. It is not only the honey consumed and labor lost in rearing these little drones, but it is the honey they consume afterwards. They became a hoard of consumers in the hive rather than producers, which materially effects the surplus honey crop.

What you say in reference to farmers marketing honey is true in many in-