

the old queen, open the hive and look for queen-cells. In doing this it is well to shake the bees off the combs so that the cells can easily be discovered. If they are found capped at this time they should be destroyed, as they will contain larvæ that are too old to make good queens. Bees do not cap over a cell containing a good queen-larva, as a rule, in less than six days from the time the mother queen is removed. The reason for this lies in the fact that bees rarely miss their queen to a sufficient extent to start cells in less than from two to two and one-half days after her removal; and if you find cells sealed over on the fifth day after the removal of the old (or mother) queen, you may know that the larva in said capped cell must have been three to three and a half days old when the bees undertook to change it to a queen. All queen-rearers agree that larvæ two days old and under give the best queens, and that a larva older than three days should never be used under any circumstances, if we would have queens which can to any extent be called good. Of course, the colony is to be well fed, if no honey is coming in from the fields, until the sixth day, or till all cells are capped over.

#### Bees in Palestine.

A recent report of the United States consul at Jerusalem gives quite an interesting account of bees and honey in Palestine. Mention is made of a family that emigrated from Switzerland in 1849, and settled at Artus, a few miles from Jerusalem, the father being a practical bee-keeper. He had five sons who inherited the father's enthusiasm in apiculture. They kept the bees in the sort of hives then in use in that country, terra cotta jars, and while they produced considerable honey

with such hives, the best results were not obtained until 1880, when an American taught them the modern methods of working an apiary, when in 1884 they obtained 6000 pounds of honey from 50 hives in less than a month. The Turkisk officials discovered the industry and its wealth-making power and proceeded to levy a tax system that increased 150 hives of bees to 2000, working up a tax of \$500 on a single apiary, which was more than the industry would bear, and the hives were seized by the government and sold at auction at Jerusalem for about one dollar per hive, but the purchasers not being skilled bee-keepers and the bees not being disposed to sanction the action of the Turkisk tax-gatherer, the bees again fell into the hands of the original owners. The products and climatic conditions of the land in Palestine are very similar in many respects to Southern California. The orange and lemon trees give a good quality of honey and the bees are carried from one locality to another. To give sufficient bee pasture the Shiek demands toll on every hive that passes through his village, and the toll is regulated so that "it is what the tariff will bear," and sometimes amounts to confiscation and total destruction.

It is recorded that the industry is beset by many obstacles and calls for patience, tact and perservance. The owners of the Holy Land bees make quite a business in exporting the bees, some of them being sent as far as California. Some years ago some purchased some and found them good workers and very prolific, but rather vicious in handling, even at swarming time. They are a handsome race and when leaving the hive go straight away to the field without circling ceremony, and on their return come home to the hive as straight