

6. How much does a colony require from April 1st to May 15th in case they fail to be able to gather honey? Abbi Boyer knew of an instance in which one of his colonies lost 15 pounds, from 15th March to 15th Mays. A definite reply was not given to the question.

7. Is it the mother or the cell which has the greater influence on the size of the worker bee?

This question was asked to assist in solving as to whether it would be possible to get a worker bee of larger body and consequently longer tongue, so that the bees would be able to work on red clover. Mr. Legros claimed that already various tests have been made to cross *Apis dorsata* with our bees, so far without results—races will hardly cross kinds and families only—he had for five years, in various colonies put foundation with larger sized cells, viz, 6.4 m m (the ordinary worker cell measures 5.2 m m, that of drones 6.6 m m). In regard to tongue measurements he had found that the bees in these colonies had an average length of tongue of 7.5 m m, while the others had a length of only 6.5. He had undertaken this work at the solicitation of the late Prof. Harnet, who held that it was possible to improve our present race of bees by the above methods. The Congress thought it would be worth while to conduct further investigations along the above line. M. Julien made the claim that such bees as flew regularly to hether had longer tongues than others.

8. Which is the best method of introducing a strange race of queen to a native colony?

Method of M. Bellot. The colony must be made queenless, instead of brood removed, and the queen given in a cage. After two days, or with foreign races three, at sunset the cage door partially opened and a cork of sugar and honey put in the opening. Through the operation great care must be taken particularly when honey is not coming in freely.

Du Chatelle claimed, to shake the bees from several combs of the queenless colony at the entrance, sprinkle the new queen and the bees with sugar water and let all run in together.

The Congress came to the conclusion that success under no circumstances was assured, the fact was also to be considered that such resulted in the crossing of the bees, to say nothing of the danger of foul brood.

10. Is it a practical principle that two or more colonies with the brood chamber separated by a screen, which in consequence

have the same warmth and odor, can work in a common surplus honey compartment?

Ans. Yes.

Does such a method give any advantage in securing honey, and in what respect?

The answer to this question was left for investigation until next Congress.

After the close of the above was brought up the world wide lamentations over the adulterations of honey and wax, and not to be forgotten the demand for state aid by means of Duty, Law and money in aid of the advancement of bee-keeping. Mr. Crousze remarked that in Belgium there was a law to forbid the sale of impure honey and impure wax.

### Something from British Columbia.

I have been intending to write a few lines on bee-keeping out here, but was waiting till the end of the season so I can report what shape the bees are in, for winter bee-keeping here, like any other part of Canada, is not a sure thing every year, though, I think, more than most other parts, on account of the moistness of the climate, there is generally plenty of flowers, if the weather is favorable for bees to work. That has not been the case this year, for it has been a very poor summer for bees, but good enough for anything else. I had fifty colonies in the spring, and they have doubled by natural swarming. The most of them are well filled with honey and in good shape for winter, but I only got 400 pounds of extracted honey. There was too much cool, cloudy weather, that only bee-keepers know is no good for bees to gather much honey. The bees commenced this year to gather pollen on February 1st. Honey comes from the different kinds of maple. In May the white clover is in bloom. That lasts all summer, but the honey comes in more quickly in August from a flower we call prairie queen. It is a large purple flower that grows on swampy and peat land. The honey is nearly as good as clover honey. As for wintering bees here, the best way is to put them into a good winter case packed with chaff. I have wintered them that way and they have come out in good shape; but they generally come on all right just left on the summer stands, for the winters are very light.

I will not write any more this time to take up your valuable space.

THOMAS W. COVERDALE

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