

QUERIES and ANSWERS

1. What would be your advice to a beginner in purchasing bees? Are Italians very much better than the common bees?

2. Will it pay one who is intending to keep twenty-five or thirty colonies of bees, to sow clover or plant basswood for them? BEGINNER.

3. How can I best feed my bees in packing boxes outside? D. MAC.

4. Can you give me any information regarding the Canadian west for bee-keeping? Can bees be wintered outside there, or must some underground repository be provided?

M. G., Beachville.

5. Do you think when the bees are about ready to swarm if I take all the brood chamber combs out and put in empty combs, then place the brood combs in an empty hive on top of the old one, will prevent swarming until after the clover flow?

Would you prefer empty combs, or comb foundation to be put into the old hive?

D. A., Beaverton, Ont.

1. If I could purchase a good strain of common bees (not blacks), I would rather take them than pay a high price for pure Italians, and later, if I thought advisable, a pure Italian queen might be introduced.

2. Yes, if there is not much alsike clover grown within reach of the bees, and you have the land, the clover crop will pay for itself either in hay or seed, and the bees will have an opportunity to work near home.

Of late years the basswood has been rather uncertain as a honey plant. It is hardy, grows quickly, and is val-

uable for shade and timber, and if planted in good land (not too dry) will be more likely to yield honey.

3. When it is too cool for bees to fly a simple way to feed them, is to lay a comb of honey (after slightly scratching or breaking the capping) flat on top of the frames and cover up snugly, or when you have no honey a candy made as described in the October number of the C. B. J., will answer as well. We have several colonies in the cellar living on this candy the past two months, and they appear to be doing well.

4. Bees are being successfully kept in many parts of the Canadian west. In 1884 the writer had a few bees for experimental purposes near Indian Head, and found that while it was too exposed on the open prairie, when they were removed to the shelter of the bluffs of timber they did well. I did not try wintering bees outside there, but would expect they could be wintered outside, west of the fourth Meridian. A good cellar where the temperature can be maintained at from 40 to 45 degrees, would be safer in the colder parts of the country.

5. Do not wait until bees are ready to swarm, but give them room in the way you propose when they begin to show signs of being crowded. If I had clean worker combs I would use them, otherwise use comb foundation. Shake part of the bees with the queen into the lower hive and place queen excluder between upper and lower story. This will postpone swarming for a time, but if the colony is strong and the honey flow good, they will require a super on top in a short time.

St. Thomas, Ont.

R. H. SMITH,

Fortunate is the man who doesn't go lame when he has occasion to sidestep temptation.