

in close touch with the
ments of Agriculture.
Switt, the Dominion En-
recognises the necessity
vigorous campaign
es, and we believe he
name will become very
an bee-keepers in the

effective work being done to eradicate
the bee pest.

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Bee-keepers would do well, we imagine,
to welcome such a proposition, as being
of the nature of an "insurance" scheme.
It is quite possible that a fund so
raised might furnish the means of com-
pensating the owners of diseased colonies
burned by the inspectors. Anyhow, the
matter is well worth considering.

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We have on hand, for publication in
our next issue, a very interesting and
useful contribution by Mr. F. W. L.
Sladen, (Fellow of the Entomological
Society of London), the well-known
English queen breeder. Mr. Sladen, in ad-
dition to being a bee-keeper of long ex-
perience, is well-known as an entomolo-
gist, and is an acknowledged authority
upon the various races of wild bees. He
was but fourteen or fifteen when he wrote
his first work (on the humble bee, we
believe), and since then he has written a
great deal on various subjects relating
to the natural history of bees. His book
on queen-rearing ("Queen Rearing in
England") is a valuable work which has
placed him in the front rank of Euro-
pean writers on apiculture. Mr. Sladen
some years ago journeyed to the east to
study the various races of bees, and there
is no man living who is better fitted to
write upon the question he has been
good enough to deal with for us, viz.,
"The Bee for the Breeder."

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In our present issue, we print a letter
from a reader, who, having become in-
terested in Dr. Miller's article last month,
asks for directions as to how he should
make a start. The bee-keeper who de-
sires to Italianise his yard may commence
with one good Italian queen, and she
should be the **best obtainable**. From her,
the bee-keeper should raise enough queens
to requeen every colony in his yard. But
the yard has not been Italianized yet, for
the young queens will mate with black

drones, and the worker progeny will be
half-breeds. The young drones, however,
will all be pure Italians, and if we raise a
fresh lot of queens the next season from
the original pure Italian queen, and again
requeen the whole yard, we shall have
nothing but pure Italian queens mated
with pure Italian drones in our
apiary. We are now in a position to
commence operations in selecting and
improving our strain of bees.

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If we are to obtain an accurate esti-
mate as to the relative merits of the
various queens that are under observa-
tion, we must remember that it is abso-
lutely necessary to preserve uniformity in
the conditions. It should also be unneces-
sary to insist that accurate records be
kept of the various colonies; also that
when you have found a tip-top breeder,
she should never be killed until you have
found a better.

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Let us here remark that there is one
point that bee-keepers appear to over-
look in the "Keep Better Bees" discus-
sion that is taking place in the various
bee journals of this continent. It is this.
The progeny of a specially good queen,
on the average, are not so good as their
mother. Like does **not** breed like. On
the other hand, the progeny of a poor
queen, **on the average**, are better than
their mother. These statements may ap-
pear somewhat paradoxical to many, and
it is important that the matter should be
clearly understood. Let us endeavour to
explain it. Supposing a breeder raises
a hundred queens from one selected
queen. Now if we could accurately meas-
ure at the end of their first season the
achievements of the colonies to which the
hundred daughters are given, we should
find that a certain proportion of the col-
onies would be below the average as
regards honey production, while
perhaps a similar proportion would
be above the average. The
average yield of the hundred would be

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in his "Observations"
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article shows that he
remains to be done.
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