

not accomplish all we would like to in one year, but by superseding all the poorer queens in the apiary by those raised from number 12, we certainly should be advancing our apiary up the scale toward number twelve's yield. This is what I have been working for during the past thirty years and it gives me pleasure to say that my colonies average very much more nearly alike in their yields, and the average yield per colony is much higher in proportion to the yield of nectar from the nectar bearing flora than it was when I commenced. And to improve our stock we must supersede our poorer queens with those from the better stock. I find that there is no time in the year in which the queens are so generally superseded as immediately after the principle honey flow. And we can always rest assured that when the bees are willing to do such work, then is our best time. With me, fully three-fourths of all the queens superseded by the bees are so superseded during the three weeks immediately following the basswood honey-flow. Knowing this fact I have, for years, done the most of my queening at this time of the year, and with success that has always pleased me, and that without interfering with my honey crop in the least. To this end I start a greater number of queen cells than usual from five to eight days before the expected close of the basswood honey harvest, and when these cells mature, hunt out the old queen and dispose of her, giving a mature cell twenty-four hours after having removed the old queen. (When cell protectors are used, the cell can be given at the same time of removing the old queen, thus saving the opening of the hive; for, as a rule, the bees allow the queen to leave all right where a cell-protector is used. If the young queen emerges

from her cell in an hour or so after giving the cell, or before the bees are aware that their mother is gone, they will sometimes kill her and start cells from their own brood; but if the cells do not hatch in less than from twelve to twenty-four hours after the old queen was removed, nearly every queen will be accepted all right. By raising the queens before the honey harvest closes; that is, the bees doing the feeding of the embryo queens while in the larval form before the honey flow is over; they are sure to be fed in such a way that the very best of queens are produced, this also having a great advantage toward accomplishing our object over and above what would be if we raised our queens before the harvest commenced, or after it was over.

Another plan which I have often used since my apiary became very much improved beyond what it formerly was, is to raise a lot of cells from my best queen at the time given above, and, twenty-four to forty-eight hours before they are booked to mature, give one to each colony having a queen more than one year old, using a cell-protector for each one, and placing this protected cell in one of the sections on the hive, or anywhere I best can where the bees can cluster about it, without hunting out the old queen at all; when, if the bees have any notion to supersede their queen, they will accept of this young one and destroy the old queen. If they destroy the young queen I allow the old queen to remain, thinking that the bees know what is right, and in nineteen cases out of twenty where the bees decide on keeping the old queen I find she improves par excellence till after the honey flow of the next year is over. This is something that does not cost much labor and which I practice much to my satisfaction.