

Double Colonied Hives.

—G. A. DEADMAN.

We read very little about double colonied hives, or the keeping of two colonies of bees in one hive. There are many advantages to be gained by so doing, and as I have had considerable experience with such I will endeavor to give as concisely and clearly as I can my convictions regarding them. I would say that I have had from 150 to 200 colonies, two in a hive, extending over a period of several years. The number is now reduced to 60, o. to those wintered in their summer stands. The objection to them when wintered in the cellar was they were apt to be too warm, especially towards spring. So satisfied am I with them, when not wintered in the cellar, that I purpose continuing their adoption so long as I winter outside and live in a cold climate. I am not sure but that I would continue their use if in a warm one, especially if kept in a house apiary. The double colonied hive does away with the idea of a readily moveable hive, but there are many who have no use for a readily moveable hive, preferring one that will not likely be moved by the wind, and that does not require to be by muscle. Perhaps those who clip their queen's wings will say that they must have a hive easily handled in swarming time, but with a double hive as I have then there need be no trouble having swarms with clipped queens. I will in this paper mention briefly their advantages and leave to future issues a description of them and their manipulation. Next to preventing swarming is the prevention of increase, and it is just here a double colonied hive is away ahead of a single colony one. The advantages are:

1st They are superior for wintering as each help to keep the other warm. For this reason they are better in the spring. Many a weak colony would have died but for the warmth they received from a strong colony in the other end.

2nd. They are of advantage when it is desired in the spring to reduce the number of frames to each colony, as the bees will always be clustered next to the centre. By beginning at the end, if you find bees in the first combs you need have no fear regarding your colony. If no bees there you simply take away frames of comb until you find them. Put down a moveable division board and your colony will be warm and comfortable.

3rd. There is a decided gain when wishing to unite two colonies. The partition I make has a half inch hole which is on a level with the top of the frames. This is kept closed with a wad of cloth. When it is desired to unite the two colonies take away the inferior queen, open the hole referred to and all is lovely, excepting removing any queen cells, nine or ten days after from the colony from which the queen has been removed. For this reason it is easier to keep down increase when using a double colonied hive.

4th. They are better when the seasons are short and a large working force is required on short notice. All you need to do is to remove the queen, the frames of brood and, if desired, the adhering bees from one end, and all the working force go at once with the remaining colony and are crowded into the supers. It does more than this, you have a larger number of honey gatherers in proportion to each queen, therefore there is less brood reared in proportion to the number of honey gatherers, which is very essential when the honey flow is short and the eggs that are laid would develop bees too late to gather the spoil, too early to endure the winter. By this method you gain what you would by confining the queen to fewer frames, and more because the working force is larger, and if there is honey to be gathered they are ready and will store it wherever you want it.

5th. There is no lifting of hives, making less work in that way, and unless the wind blows a hurricane there need be no fear that they will turn over. I like them much better than a quadruple hive, as the entrance must of necessity be on the opposite side. With the double hive I have both entrances on the same side which I prefer to have facing the south east. I tried four colonies in one hive, but did not like them for this reason as well as others.

Brussels, Ont.

That Debate on the Hon. R. L. Taylor's Paper.

After Mr. Taylor's paper was read at the Ontario Bee-keepers' Convention, which was held in Brantford, in January last, I saw by the way things were drifting, that several bee keepers would come to the conclusion that it could not be made to pay to feed sugar syrup to bees, for the purpose of producing what some call sugar comb honey, and if any person saw fit to trade on the weight of our convention not disputing this point, what was going to be the fate of