

the original comb
 ending this worked
 use supers same,
 d to lift combs as
 rable. That fall I
 f honey, and had
 lonies. During the
 was much occupied
 to whether I knew
 ying out a neigh-
 lonies, but who let
 s and consequently
 ore spring I had de-
 ided they could be
 In April I bought
 ut found that they
 o 25 colonies, which
 4 spring count. As
 comb I expected but
 my surprise over 20
 g June and July. I
 ecided I had enough,
 ones. My returns
 ppointing, amounting
 lbs. It row became
 was going to winter
 r, a small earth one,
 les, etc., was too
 it, and put them in;
 lar door leading into
 ights, I brought them
 strong. I might say
 t one colony by bad
 y experience with the
 ough I find about four
 colonies queenless in
 st year's experience
 became a real thing
 l honey and only in-
 voved colonies. I had
 ny of my colonies were
 honey gathering was
 died systems with a
 something that would
 ents and locality, and
 on the following modi-
 us systems: "Clipped
 of two combs of brood
 on as colony is strong

enough, and weather warm enough; in-
 spection of combs every seven days; de-
 struction of cells, (if cells started second
 time, take brood away, replace with
 empty comb or foundation and give
 brood to some strong colony, preferably
 one with queen of current year's raising).
 This system gave me good results last
 year; 3,000 lbs, from 50 colonies, spring
 count, 60 colonies in the cellar, and
 though rather too warm, hope for the
 best.

Wishing the C.B.J. continued success
 and the compliments of season.

MANITOBA.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE HONEY BEE.

Indexed

I am writing to some 200 bee-keepers
 whose names I have selected from several
 thousand secured from different parts of
 the country, and from the replies which
 I receive, I shall decide if it will pay
 me to spend \$1,500 to get 600 queens to
 re-queen my apiaries.

All of the best queen breeders, as well
 as the best stock breeders and noted en-
 tomologists, agree that the father has as
 much influence on the off-spring as the
 mother has, but the cost of controlling
 the drone bee is so great that bee-keep-
 ers hesitate about paying out the money
 necessary to do so. I am inclined to
 to think it will pay, but wish to get the
 opinion of my fellow bee-keepers before
 making a decision.

My plan will be to buy the best virgin
 queens raised and selected by the best
 queen breeders in the United States and
 mate them, in my own yard, to drones
 raised from the best breeding queens
 that I can buy that have lived to the
 age of four or five years, thus securing,
 on the drone side, a long lived bee. I
 shall mate them by the plan mentioned
 in the American Bee Journal of June,
 1910.

As stated above the cost of securing
 the best virgins from well-known breed-
 ers, preparing the yard for mating, buy-
 ing the best breeding queens from which
 to raise drones, introducing and mating
 the virgins, keeping the records, etc., will
 be at least, \$1,500, and I will need 600
 queens, making an average of \$2.50 each.

Now if you will kindly inform me whe-
 ther you think the plan will pay or not
 pay as your best judgment dictates, you
 will do me a lasting favor and I shall be
 pleased to reciprocate by giving you the
 result of the experiment if I decide to
 make it.

C. O. SMITH.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 5, 1911.

[We do not believe Mr. Smith's plan
 at all a good one. He intends buying
 virgins from various queen-breeders and
 mating them to drones raised from his
 own queens. What then? If he suc-
 ceeds in carrying out what he has al-
 ready outlined, what results does he ex-
 pect and what are his subsequent oper-
 ations to be? The answer to these ques-
 tions would decide whether the experi-
 ment were worth the expenditure involved
 in carrying it out. We are not con-
 cerned with the characters that our cor-
 respondent desires to improve; only with
 his methods. So far he will not have
 exercised any sort of selective influence
 on the progeny of the matings, nor will
 he in our opinion, have effected the
 desired improvement in his stock. Al-
 though one occasionally hears of bee-
 keepers who claim to have achieved won-
 derful results by rough and ready meth-
 ods of selection, we imagine that Mr.
 Smith's task is no easy one, as is shown
 by the principles of heredity and varia-
 tion. We should be very glad to hear
 how he intends to proceed after having
 mated his 600 purchased virgins.

The matter of bee-breeding by selec-
 tion is one of the most important that
 concerns bee-keeping, and we trust the
 near future will see a concentrated effort