

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

OLLA PODRIDA.

By O. FITZALWYN WILKINS.

*Five-Banded Golden Italians.*

I have noticed several articles in the bee journals during the past year concerning five-banded bees, some of which state that they are no better than the standard three-banded. I had one colony of the golden beauties in '91, and three in '92, but am not yet prepared to give a definite opinion as to their honeygathering abilities, but intend during the coming season, if I am spared, to make a thorough test. On one point, however, I am quite satisfied, viz., that they are much gentler, because I never found it necessary to smoke them before opening their hives, having never been stung at all by them, not even after the honey harvest was over. If, during the season of '93, they prove to be equal in other respects to either hybrids or three-banded, I shall hereafter keep nothing else in my yard. I raised my colonies of five-banded from queens bought of Mr. L. L. Hearn, of W. Virginia (who claims to be the originator of that variety), Charles D. Duvall, of Maryland, and E. F. Quigley, of Missouri. Of the three gentlemen, I think the first named furnished the finest queen, fully ninety per cent. of her progeny being marked with five distinct yellow bands, as promised by him. The others were not far behind. I also purchased a queen from a Mr. Frego, who advertised five-banded queens very extensively. When she arrived she proved to be very small and rather dark leather-colored. In due time her progeny proved to be three-banded instead of five, as advertised, and extremely vicious in temperament, so much so, in fact, that I was rather pleased than otherwise, at her premature departure to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." *Requiescat in pace.* I am glad to be able to inform your readers who, like myself, are color-blind on the queen question, not having eyes for anything which is not "golden-to-the-tip,"

that one of your Canadian advertisers can furnish queens which will produce five-banded workers fully as well marked as those from Uncle Sam's territory. I refer to Mr. A. W. Brown, of Port Rowan. I make this statement fearlessly, having received a sample of worker bees from him. Mr. Brown, I think, guarantees his to be "honey hustlers" also, and I intend purchasing a queen of him next spring,—if I have enough pollen (yellow dust).

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Permit me to congratulate you on the excellent likeness you have given the beekeeping world of Mr. Robert McKnight, of Owen Sound. A friend from that embryo city was visiting me some time ago and recognized the likeness at once, Mr. McKnight's name being hidden. I hope our gracious queen may some day make a knight of him.

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The A.B.J. is at hand, only the day after publication, and full of good things as usual, one of which is, "No extra charge is made for this, the 53rd number." Thanks, very much, Brother York. Your generosity is exceeded only by the handsome features of the gentleman represented in the N.E. corner of the "Buzzings" column of the A.B. (i.e. weekly) *Journal*,—the one wearing "such a love of a moustache." Another gem is,—

"Do you want to be a hero?

Let us tell you how to do it;

Your subscription's just expired!

Then step up, please, and renew it."

Good advice to all beekeepers, which I hope to follow before the next 4th of July,

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Mr. Larrabee, late of the Michigan Agricultural College, has returned to the home of his childhood, Larrabee's Point, Vermont, where he will again make a specialty of apiculture.

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The A.B.J. has taken a leaf out of the C.B.J. and will hereafter furnish its readers with the biography and portrait of some prominent beekeeper oftener than semi-occasionally. Good act; "better late than never."