

## APIARIES ACT.

## Otaki, New Zealand.

heard under the Apiaries Act before Mr. A. D. at Otaki, when Mr. W. of Apiaries, proceeded to, of Manakau and Hotaki, under section 9 for other than frame hives in written notice to do so. given by the informant of the defendant's place December 17th last and written notice to frame fourteen days to frame again visited the place the bees were still in

said as this was the r the Act a small fine case. He took it that been taken to show the thers that the provisors o be complied with. It y for everyone who kept ep them in the proper

I leave to withdraw the ovided a conviction was first. Defendant was, t. and costs on the first t consenting to a with- er information.

pleaded guilty to the was fined 1s. and costs. e was withdrawn.

Foul Brood Act: 6 Ed- gives our Inspectors sim- gh we do not know of e a case has actually

Sec. 4 of the above act tor shall have full po- iscretion, to order the r of any bees dwelling in le frame hives within a d in default the inspec- or order the destruction the bees dwelling there- 7, S. 4. It appears that enerally known.—Ed.]

## QUEENLESS HIVE IN SPRING.

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I have a very strong hive of bees without a queen. I gave it a frame of brood with one, two and three-day old eggs. It had also capped brood, but it has not drawn out any queen cells. I took the frame from one of my best Italian hives. I got forty or more Italian queens from Mr. Frank Adams of Brantford. Kindly advise me the next best move. If I give another frame of eggs would they likely draw out a queen cell? Which do you consider the best plan of getting queen cells; also explain Pratt's simple way that I read so much about in the bee journals, but never an explanation.

ALEXANDER SMITH.

Enfield, April 29, 1910.

## Reply.

It is always a difficult problem to know just what to do with a queenless colony early in the season. The steps you have taken so far are correct; that is to supply them with uncapped brood from your other colonies. The fact that they have not started queen cells would indicate that there is a queen of some kind still in the hive. Either the old queen has failed and the bees have not yet superseded her, or they have hatched out a virgin that has not yet commenced to lay. Virgins raised in this way very early in the season are frequently not perfectly developed and are incapable of mating. They stay in the hives and prevent the introduction of new queens. They also prevent the bees from raising other queens for themselves. The only thing to do is to hunt up the worthless queen and destroy her, before attempting to introduce another to the colony. After she has been found, our advice would be, if your bees are Italians, to pick out a very weak colony that has a good queen and place it quietly on top of the strong queenless one. You will be surprised in a few days to see how quickly the combs in the upper colony will be filled with

brood. We mention Italians in this connection because they unite more readily than the blacks. The same can be done with blacks if you are very careful to put them together without any disturbance. A cool cloudy day is best for this work.

The Pratt system of rearing queens does not differ materially from the other systems used, except that Mr. Pratt advocated very small nuclei for mating the queens. He had a number of very ingenious devices for starting cells some of which are now used quite extensively for this work. Among them might be mentioned a hive fitted with small frames in which he kept the breeding queen, and as brood was required one small frame was taken out and replaced by an empty one, thus keeping up a constant supply of young brood for transferring into the cell cups. His cell cups were small wooden cylinders, hollowed out on one end and filled with soft wax. This wax was then punched out by a special die to the shape of a natural queen cell in which the young larva was placed. In some cases he got the breeding queen to deposit eggs directly into these cups, but ordinarily we believe he transferred the larvae a la Doolittle. As before mentioned he used very small clusters of bees for mating up the queens.

It is difficult to say which system is the best. Most queen breeders use a combination of different systems, with a few extra kinks of their own added.

With regard to feeding the colonies from which you reared queens by the plan named, I am not quite sure whether you mean the colony with the empty combs in which the cells were being developed, or the old colony with the brood which you set off to one side. Of course, naturally the old colony would feel pretty blue with the best part of its workers gone and nothing left but a few young bees running around on the combs, but if lots of honey were coming in the queen rearing colony should be as active as a newly hived swarm. If little or no honey