

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## The Production of Extracted Honey.

SECOND PAPER.

**I**N order to have first-class [extracted honey, well ripened in the hive and to extract only from combs not occupied by the queen (as advocated in my first paper), it is essential that your hive should hold at least twelve frames, of the simplicity or Jones size. If it will hold from sixteen to twenty, then so much the better. These frames may be either in a one-storey hive or a two-storey, when half [the number would be above. Whether you are keeping bees extensively or not, there is an advantage in having both kinds. I do not mean hives taking different size frames, but single and double-storey hives taking the same size. I may explain my reasons for this in some future issue of this journal. Now, although I would advise and use nothing smaller than a sixteen-frame hive, yet, as there are a large number in Canada using a twelve-frame hive, such as you, Mr. editor, originally made and sold, I will give what I believe to be the best way of managing such in the production of extracted honey. My first colony of bees was in just such a hive, and I was advised to take my surplus honey from the back end and confine the queen by means of a queen excluder zinc division board to the front. The better plan is just the reverse of this, viz: Confine your queen at the back, and place your frames to contain the honey to be extracted at the front. The advantages of this plan are clear. The bees, in order to reach the brood and queen, have to pass under or over these. They, true to their nature, do not approve of these being empty, and therefore set about having them filled. I will explain more fully. I will presume that your hive contains (at the beginning of the white clover bloom), eight frames of brood. If your colonies all average this, I consider they have wintered well. Some may contain more, which can be given to those that have less. You then place four frames of brood with the queen at the back of the hive, and in front of these a well fitting, queen excluder, perforated division board. Next to this, three empty frames from which to extract, and in front of these the remaining four frames of brood. You have now three frames for honey right in the centre of the brood chamber. As soon, therefore, as your colony requires more room, remove the four frames of brood next to the front, and make a nuclei beside the hive from which they were taken. This should be done in at least ten days from the time the queen was

excluded, as in many instances they will set about rearing queens. These queen cells, if not desirable, should be destroyed, and you can give them a cell from your best colony. You have now room in your former hive for three more empty frames which should be placed nearest the queen—the other three can be brought to the front. I may explain that although you formerly had space sufficient for eight frames of brood 1½ from centre to centre, yet for combs from which to extract it is not necessary nor advisable to place them so close together so that the six will take the place of eight brood frames. You now extract from these as often as necessary, but if you want first-class honey allow them to be about one-half capped. If these six frames will not accommodate the honey flow so as to allow for this, you might place sections over the four brood frames, and have a queen excluder beneath. There will not be room for many, but sufficient to allow your extracted honey to ripen. As regards swarming, should such occur, you simply lift out the four frames of brood, and the queen, not being able to escape, will be there. You cage her, and place her with four straight frames of comb or foundation in the place of the four frames of brood taken out. The swarm not finding the queen will return. When they have done so, the queen is allowed to run down between the combs. The four frames of brood and queen cells can be given to the nuclei previously mentioned, first destroying or removing the queen cells, unless you wish to save them. I might say, that while the swarm is in the air, it is a good time to take out the honey frames also, if ready, and replace them with empty ones. These can then be extracted at your leisure. If you want more bees and less honey confine the queen on more frames. If you want to prevent swarming, simply anticipate the swarm by exchanging the frames of brood for empty frames, as advised for natural swarming. If you want to leave home for a few days you are safe in doing so, by first removing any cells on the four frames occupied by the queen. If you should leave them for a couple of weeks and they would swarm two or three times and become disgusted with the queen for not coming in, and they decide she "must go," then it is an easy matter to examine the four frames on your return and exchange them for empty ones and a laying queen, or remove cells and give a queen. I will reserve for another issue the production of extracted honey with the "long idea" and two-storey hives.

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