

thrown after them but all to no purpose. They made a bee-line for the tree in which we had noticed the preparations going on a day or two before. They flew straight to the knot-hole and in a shorter space of time than it takes a swarm to cluster on a limb they had all entered. We wanted to satisfy ourselves on the point we have mentioned and so we decided to cut the tree down in the fall. As soon as the honey harvest was over we went one evening taking the owner of the farm along with us that he might get his share of the honey on account of the tree being on his property and we felled the tree. In doing this we cut it so that in falling the combs would lie flat. Some of our readers may wonder how we could tell without climbing the tree and peering into the hole while others of our readers will understand at once that the bees naturally build their combs parallel with the entrance. In cutting the tree down we, therefore, cut at the sides. When we got into the combs we found that they were in a very nice condition, very little broken and all new. Those containing honey were equal to almost anything we have ever seen in the way of section honey. The brood combs were slightly colored where the brood had been hatched, just about as much as brood combs generally are after one season's use. This instance inclined us to the opinion that bees do sometimes select a locality before leaving the hive as a swarm.

At other times we have found them hunting a suitable place for their future home after they had swarmed and while they were clustered on some bush, limb, fence or other convenient place. Again we have had them abscond after they had been hived from twenty-four to forty-eight hours and after having built considerable comb. Why did they leave the hive? If their new home was satisfactory and there was no bad odor therein we do not understand why they should leave the hive and take to a tree in the woods unless it were because there was too much room given them and they despaired of being able to fill it up with comb. If the hive be not shaded it becomes too warm and there would also be danger of their leaving even though all the other conditions were favorable. When the bees left the hive and clustered outside they seemed

to send out scouts in search of a better home. North of our home apiary is a flat, moist valley on which the trees are mostly large, but they are seldom hollow, and a large number of swarms have been found to be clustered on logs, fences and limbs here, but very few have been found in the trees. To the south and west of us there are plenty of hollow trees and we seldom find clusters in that vicinity. Our experience, therefore, is that where hollow trees are to be found suitable for the purpose to which the bees put them to that the swarms seldom are found clustered in the open air after they have had sufficient time to search out and select a home.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

CARNIOLANS.

WHY CROSSES ARE PREFERABLE TO THE PURE RACES.

IN your reply to the letter of Mr. H. E. Christie sometime since you make the statement that you prefer crosses to Carniolans. I should like to know very much your opinion as to the best races of bees with the reasons therefor.

ILA MICHNER.

Lowbanks, Ont.

In reply to the above we are probably at fault in not more fully explaining our views from time to time as they change with respect to things in the apicultural world. Changes are brought about by practical experience, and though we do not forget what we have said in former times yet we seem to take it for granted that our readers understand that we do not change like a weather vane without reasons. We shall endeavor hereafter to explain the why and the wherefore of any changes which we may take in our views on these subjects. With reference to Carniolans we may say that we liked them very much at the start. They were good comb builders, were exceedingly gentle and seemed to gather as large a crop of honey, and for a time they seemed to be "just the bee." From extra good colonies we had a large number of queens and we felt positive that we were going to secure something in the way of bees better than we had ever had, taking all the points which we have mentioned above into consideration, and we found that the queens from this colony which were mated with Ital-