

close the screen door, and sometimes every bee will be out in one hour, or two at most. In or near the top of the door I have several holes made through the screen, and on these holes on the outside small cones of wire like thimbles are stuck. I sometimes lift off one or two dozen cases, lay them on one edge, go off and do anything I wish to, and in a short time all is clear. Of course, I face them to the light, and there being no other light they all make to the door, run up the screen, out of the small cones, and back to their own hives; and should any try to return (for of course many of them will fill themselves with honey and then wish to come back), they alight on the outside, run up to the top, fly off and try again, but never go out on the end of the cones to come in at the end.

In looking over the Review I see some are giving plans for a bee-house although they do not use them as yet. Will you allow me to drop a hint or two? If I were to build one as I would like it to be, it would be something on this plan: Select a south slope, build a wall running east and west as long as needed for the number of colonies. For the front use any kind of frame-work. I should prefer it double if to winter in; if only for summer, single thickness would answer. Put a door in each end. The only objection to this arrangement is, we only have the use of one side, but for everything else I think it is good.

The houses I am using stand endwise north and south. I use east and west sides only, and have objections to those running north and south. I will hereafter build them running east and west.

ARGYLE, Wis., Jan. 10, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Question Drawer.

MR. D. A. JONES.—Dear Sir.—I have a few questions to ask you about bees and the bee business, in regard to which I desire your opinion. (1) Which is preferable—the progeny of a Carniolan queen mated to an Italian drone, or that of an Italian queen and Carniolan drone? All things considered which do you regard as the best? The progeny of the first cross mentioned are not, I presume, always irritable, though I know them to be occasionally very cross and vindictive. I had one colony of these bees, and their disposition to fly out and sting could not be exceeded. A great many of these bees showed at least one yellow band, if not more. If they prove to be anything like this, in temper, then I don't want any more Carniolans crossed with Italians.

(2) Do the pure Carniolan bees keep as quiet on the combs, while they are being handled, as the Italians, and are they as gentle and industrious as the Italian bees?

(3) Does the manufacture of honey pay without going extensively into the business? If the sale of comb and extracted honey is not profitable can you tell me if it may be made so by being carried on extensively?

(4) Do queens from the south (say, from Maryland) winter in a cold climate? and do you raise any light-colored Italians?

Please send me answer, and hoping that you may have a successful season.

I am, yours truly,

JOHN F. DIAMONDS.

Fly Mountain, Ulster Co., N.Y., July 20, '92.

A cross between the Carniolan and the Italian is not as difficult to handle as a cross between the blacks and the Italians. We usually find the Carniolan cross a milder bee than the Italian. It depends entirely on what you are working for in crossing the races. If you are striving for brighter bees with more Italian character about them, you would then cross the Carniolan queen with an Italian drone. If you wished more Carniolan character you would cross the Italian queen with the Carniolan drone, as the drone exercises the greater influence over the progeny. I am inclined to think from what you say about the temperament of your hybrids that there is little of the Carniolan blood in them. There is a possibility that Carniolans crossed with Cyprians or Syrians might produce an ill-tempered bee such as you describe, but not so with Italians. It is quite possible for blacks crossed with Italians to be mistaken for a Carniolan cross; and we fear that some Carniolans sent out have too much black blood in them. The Carniolans are not as active as the Italians, and are less inclined to repel robbers.

The production of honey exclusively pays better than either the queen business or the sale of bees. Queens from southern or warmer countries produce bees that stand the winter just as well as those from northern localities. As far as I can see, there appears to be no difference.