

I mean the queen that will do the largest amount of work in a given time.

The late Lorenzo Lorain Langstroth, who has been justly styled "the father of American Apiculture," describes a good queen in that marvelous work of his on "The Honey Bee" as one who will lay three thousand five hundred eggs per day for several weeks in succession during the breeding season.

What bee-keeper of any considerable experience has not had occasion to note the difference between good, medium and poor queens? The colony with but a handful of bees, so to speak, gaining so rapidly in numerical strength as in some cases to exceed the more populous colony in the next hive in the actual amount of surplus honey stored; thus demonstrating that the good queen was in the colony which had wintered poorly where as the well-favored colony had only a medium or poor queen.

Dzierzon, the great German bee-keeper and scientist, says "queens differ much as to the degree of their fertility.

Mr. Langstroth notes an observation made while transferring bees by counting the eggs dropped on a black cloth in forty minutes by the queens of four different colonies. The first queen dropped but one egg, the second twelve, the third eighteen and the fourth twenty eggs in the stated time. This observation was made in the middle of April and on the fifteenth of July the colony of the first queen was very poor, the second was of average strength, and both the others were very strong.

Now let us apply the result of this observation to practice and see how it would figure out:—Take for instance an apiary of one hundred colonies, the average annual yield of which is, say eighty pounds of ex-

tracted honey per colony; now let us suppose that twenty-five of the one hundred colonies are poor, fifty average and twenty-five strong, and then try and solve the problem as to how the average yield of eighty pounds per colony is obtained. The poor colonies will gather about half as much surplus honey as the fifty of average strength, or say forty pounds each, then in order to get the average of eighty pounds per colony for the whole apiary, the twenty-five strong colonies must gather one hundred and twenty pounds of surplus honey each.

Now, if in accordance with the observation and deduction of Mr. Langstroth as already noted, the difference between the poor, average and strong colonies is attributable solely to the difference of queens, then we are forced to admit that the mere act of tolerating the twenty-five poor queens has incurred an expense of one thousand pounds of honey when compared with the average colonies, and three thousand pounds short when compared with the strong colonies, either of the items being sufficient to pay for all the good queens required and have a considerable balance to the good.

You may change the figures as you desire and the result will always show that the poor queens are heavy debtors with no prospect of paying and should under no circumstances be tolerated. Keep the best and only the best; the very best are the cheapest in the end, and an economy that prohibits the employing of the best queens is certainly a false economy.

The owners of Ayrshire, Jersey Holstein or other stock do not stop at merely knowing that their animals are thoroughbred; their ambition is that each individual member of the herd shall be the very best of the kind, and should not be kept by a

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