

qualities are valuable; and, if the frames are not so easily handled as the ordinary style, highly desirable. Their regard for the queen is much greater, and all points of their behavior toward her more marked, making it easier for an expert to judge of the condition by the appearance of the outside.

The blacks are not so liable to fill up the brood-chamber with honey, thus crowding the queen. This is a very desirable feature when contraction is practised. This very quality, though, is apt to bring them out in the fall with an empty brood-chamber. Some consider this an advantage, though I think most would prefer bees that look ahead a little more, and do not require to be fed every fall. Of course, if the fall honey is not suitable for wintering, which is probably the case at some times in some localities, it is best that there should be as little as possible below.

To sum up, if you are producing comb honey exclusively, on a large scale, practising contraction, handling hives instead of frames, and wintering on sugar, blacks may suit you best; but under other circumstances, and for an "all-purpose" bee, the Italian is preferable.

JAMES A. GREEN.

Dayton, Ill., Sept. 25, 1888.

North-Western Farmer.

Bees, Weather and Honey in Manitoba.

THE greater part of August, the month we look for the most of our surplus honey, was cool and the prospects did certainly look unfavorable. But on the 18th the weather changed for the better and we had one week of the best honey weather I have seen yet. It was just warm enough to tempt the nectar from its hiding and the bee from its lethargy, and the honey fairly poured in, every empty comb was filled, and the bees were wild with excitement—the bee-keeper wilder. Some colonies had most of their combs occupied with brood and were unable to store but little honey. All available room was filled, but scarcely any of the honey capped. To wait until it was sufficiently capped seemed like losing precious time, since such favorable weather might not last. So I started extracting; my biggest day's work was 260 lbs. But I had other work to do besides, such as climbing trees, hiving swarms, getting stung, and so on.

The combs that were extracted were rapidly refilled, and had I waited for capping, my surplus, which is small enough would be much less. As it was I got a little over 1,000 lbs., mostly

extracted honey. This is a good deal less than it would have been had there been a fair average of fine weather.

A good deal of golden rod honey left for winter stores is candied. The cool weather coming on before it was properly ripened aggravated the trouble to which golden rod is more subject than most other kinds of honey, viz., granulation. I have wintered bees on partly granulated stores, but some now have them nearly all granulated, and some of these colonies I intend experimenting on, in various ways to find out some way whereby we may be able to winter bees without having to use late honey, which is so liable to candy.

C. F. BRIDGMAN.

Fernton, Man.

New England Grocer.

BEEs THAT HURT TRADE.

THE bee industry is a very large one in this country. Thousands of people are employed all the year round in tending to these little insects, and collecting their honey to supply the wants of those who have a sweet tooth. California is the state where this industry thrives most, and there it pays very well. The honey is collected at certain seasons of the year, placed in jars and shipped all over the world. The New Zealanders and Australians, until lately, have had to import all their honey, and large orders have been filled by California merchants. Now they gather their own honey. Until within a few years they had no bees in New Zealand. They were taken there almost by accident. Red clover had to be imported from Germany, because it did not ripen sufficiently to yield seed for reproduction. This was explained by the absence of those fructifying insects which it is well known contribute so much in this country to the propagation of many kinds of plants. Three years ago a parcel of 100 wild bees were sent from England and set free in the neighborhood of Lyttleton. They have multiplied greatly and spread all over the Island. Now the farmers gather and make use of the clover seed from their own fields, and also gather the honey. Thus the busy little bee is destroying American and German trade.

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