

of successful wintering, dance of sealed stores the winter and early is that with my pres- ter, would think that I could play on a de- or information, would re his bees just enough y them through, and ar syrup in the spring

We tried the game ree times, and learned ily, and while experi- e is pretty expensive, nerally quite effective.

McKinnon.

9, I got from different ms of black bees, all swarms that I had to of every description. better I fed them on nd half, and wintered rteen other colonies in ost of them were win ve and six extracting ry little or no pollen, bout October 1st, they in a supply. Not one s fed these bees. They the cellar last March, r summer stands. On em about three weeks t half of them on the . Not having enough rs, I fed in the comb; a night about dusk, I e comb and shook the ce. I held the comb n and filled with sugar . A wired frame with ation was put in next b. At the next feed- the foundation partly ould then spread the vis sheet of foundation ed this way until all of combs, then a full full sheets of founda- n top, and the queen

allowed full swing if she cared to go up. At the beginning of clover, I placed one frame of brood in the centre of the live filled with foundation, with a queen excluder on top; shook bees and queen at the entrance and placed another hive of foundation with the two hives of brood over all; nine days after (or at my convenience), I used this brood for increase. Now for the results. An Italian queen I got from T. W. Jones, Bedford, P.Q., introduced to one of these small swarms last fall and worked on the above plan, gave me over 250 pounds of white honey, besides enough brood to start four colonies, and, with possibly a frame or two of brood from another colony. These four are good strong colonies at this date.

I had some blacks that did almost as well, and my average per colony, spring count, will be 200 pounds, and perhaps a little over.

Pretty good locality? Well, I don't know; there are bee hives within a mile of me here that did not produce enough surplus honey to grease a pan-cake.

I got two small swarms from a friend. He did not consider them strong enough to winter. He wintered four of his best and increased to seven. One of the two I got from him, that "had been using up their vitality on sugar syrup and looking for pollen in the early spring," in practically the same locality, gave me more pounds of honey than he got from his seven. Perhaps it was in the smoking I gave them! They were pretty high strung. I raised over fifty Italian queens this season, besides buying a good many of different strains; not that I could see much difference in gathering qualities; but the one thing I do like the Italians for is that they simply won't be robbed—it is not allowed to start in their shanty. Quite a few of my young Italian queens met black drones in mating, and if there is a market in Ontario for bees with long stings, I've got them.

Just a word about the care I gave my bees in the spring. The weakest hives

were given a $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ " entrance and the strongest 2" x $\frac{3}{8}$ "; these were increased in width as the weather warmed up during the honey flow. My strongest colonies were raised on four blocks, besides raising the cover at the back, I had very little swarming, but increased to 73 good strong colonies, and am getting enough more to winter 90. However, I will see to it that all have enough honey to last until fruit bloom, as spring feeding means a lot of extra work, and can only be done safely when the weather is warm—nothing below 60°. I had all my hives covered with old carpets, bags, etc., with black tar paper to draw the heat and shed the rain. However, I will say this about spring feeding. If it is done right—that is if the bees are shaken off one of the outside combs and three or four pounds of feed given at a time and the hives kept warm with small entrance, the results will be all right.

I thought I would lighten my part of the work by feeding in the open air, but when I saw Jones' Italians pulling the feet off my blacks and fighting everything around the place they got no more.

Who said the Italians were a weak race? Put out a dish of feed and see who is boss there! I venture to say one hive of Italians will steal more feed out of that dish than ten colonies of blacks. If you don't believe me try it, or call around some day and I will show you.

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By Ami 2 R.

I have been much interested in the recent discussion on the above subject in the C. B. J. The frankness of Mr. Byer in speaking out, and speaking plainly even when chronicling his failures, is admirable. Perhaps if more apiarists would do the same it would help us beginners.

Spring dwindling is perhaps the greatest and most difficult problem that confronts the bee-keeper. It seems to me capable of but one solution, and that is a union of effort on the part of those interested, that can only be brought about by careful thought and concentrated ex-