

HOW TO BEGIN

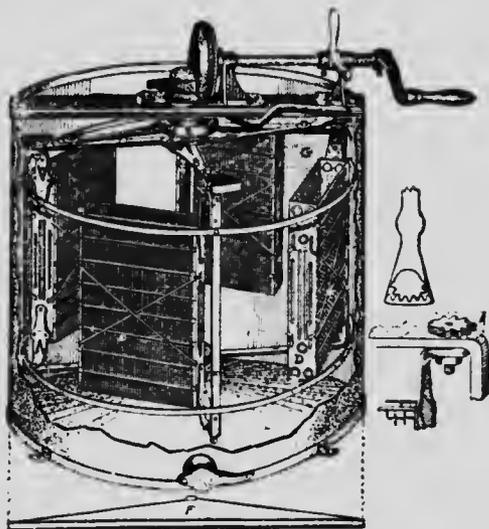
The best time of the year to begin beekeeping is during the early part of the summer, May or June. Small beginnings should be made with as little expense as possible. It is extremely discouraging, after having plunged into the business extensively, blindfolded as it were, to lose a large portion of the bees, through bad wintering or some other cause, all for the want of a little practical experience or even of theoretical knowledge.

Invest ten, fifteen or thirty dollars, then make the bees pay their own way. Buy in your own locality, if possible, as you thus do away with the danger of bringing bee disease into your neighborhood.

As the West is almost free from "Foul Brood" disease, beekeepers and those intending to become such should remember that prevention is vastly better than cure and costs a great deal less. Purchasers of bees should therefore be very careful where they place their orders, and should buy only on an absolute guarantee against loss from foul brood.

If you are a beginner, buy from a reliable man, as you will have to trust to him for the value received. If possible, it would be well to visit some progressive beekeeper and spend a whole day where you will be able to pick up tricks of the trade and a fund of other useful information.

The writer would advise the beginner to buy bees in his own locality, if possible, even if the initial price is a little higher than for imported stock. He can then improve his bees by buying laying queens from superior stock



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RACES OF BEES



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In Canada at the present time we have quite a number of different strains of bees, and the beginner is often at a loss to know which is the most suitable for his conditions. The three or five-banded Italian bee has proven more satisfactory than either the common "Blacks" or the Golden Italians. The three and five-banded Italians, as a rule, are easier to handle, show less tendency to swarm, and winter well.

EQUIPMENT

A large amount of equipment is not necessary to begin a small apiary. Some building is needed in which to store the apparatus and supplies.