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BEEES PREPARED FOR WINTER

Every Colony Put in the Best Condition

[By Wm. McEvoy]

Early in the season I put drone combs in a few of my best colonies, and in July I requeened all colonies with queens bred from colonies that gave the largest yields in honey. Some of these young queens got lost at mating time, and to make up for this delay I promptly filled their brood chamber with brood which I took from several of the best colonies, and then gave them ripe queen cells. By close attention and the giving of brood right after a queen was lost, all colonies were kept full of bees, and when the season closed these were among my best colonies. About the 16th of August I started putting the Porter bee-escapes under the supers, and to get the bees to rush through the bee-escapes quickly I lifted a few of the centre combs up about two inches and let them down again. This disturbed all the bees and caused them to rush down at a rapid rate, and the next day the bees were practically all out of the supers.

All the brood chambers were very full of brood just then, and when all the bees that had been in the supers were crowded down into the brood chambers, large quantities of bees clustered on the front of every hive. About the 20th of August I put on the feeders and gave each colony about fifteen pounds of syrup (as the season had closed in my locality). The bees soon crowded this syrup into the brood chambers and ripened it well. On the 7th of September I started to rush the feeding, and soon had 100 feeders in use. The weather being very warm, and every colony very full of bees, I could get the stores well ripened—one of the most important parts of the work to get well done. But, the brood chambers being full of brood just then, the bees could not store the syrup any faster than the brood would hatch, and of course it took the bees longer to carry down the syrup. About the 15th of September my bees began storing honey from clover—a very

unusual thing for bees to do in my locality so late in the season—and this, with the feeding that I was doing, caused the bees to build combs in many feeders. For safe wintering I always want all combs capped, so as to rest the bees by shutting off all brood-rearing until near spring. When the feeders were taken off I took the two outside combs out of each colony and put in division boards to fill the space, and left the bees crowded on seven combs of well-capped stores. Bees in colonies prepared this way cluster closer, keep quieter, consume less, come through the winter stronger and build up faster in the spring than bees in colonies not so well prepared. My colonies are packed in winter cases with four inches of maple leaves at each side, front and back, and about six inches on top of the queen-excluders, which are left on to give the bees a bee space over the combs. I place the hive lid on top of the leaves and then finish up by putting on the cover of the winter case.

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

Of Horticultural and Vegetable Growers' Associations

The annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association, which is the central organization of the horticultural societies in the Province of Ontario, will be held at the City Hall, Toronto, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 10th and 11th, commencing at 2 p.m. A very interesting programme has been arranged bearing on all phases of horticultural work, and a large attendance is expected.

On Thursday, Nov. 12th, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association will hold its annual convention in the City Hall, the first session starting at 9 a.m.

Both these conventions are being held during the week of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, when single fare rates are in force on all the railways in Ontario, thus enabling delegates and all others interested in horticultural and vegetable growing to be present at a minimum expense.