

## TIMELY HINTS ON FALL UNITING

A subscriber wishes us to give full particulars of how to unite weak colonies at this time of the year. As we have had other inquiries of like nature, we will take a little space to cover the ground.

If we put two separate lots of bees together that were located on stands remote from each other in the same yard, there will be more or less of returning bees to the old stand. These will be practically the old ones. As they will die along about midwinter, their loss may not be considered very great. But some, and perhaps all, of these old bees may be made to stay in their new quarters. If they be put back a couple of times, the great majority of them will stay put; but this involves considerable labor.

In view of the fact that bees will go back to their old stands, Mr. Doolittle has advised uniting in the brood form early in September. This will leave the hive or the stand to be vacated in late fall with a few old bees. These may be allowed to die, for it may be said they will not be worth much to the strength of the colony.

A very good way to unite, and avoid all loss of returning, is to do so at the very time of putting them in the cellar. For example, A and B are both too weak to winter outdoors. We will place the two together in one hive, making a brood-nest out of the best combs selected from the two hives, leaving the other combs for reserve feeding in the spring. As soon as the two families are placed in one hive they should be put in the cellar immediately, and left there till spring.

Another way to unite without bees returning is to take two weak colonies, one from one out-yard and the other from another, and put them together at either one of the out-yards, or at the home yard. There will be, of course, no returning, for when bees are taken away from their usual environments for, say, a radius of a mile flight, they will stay where they are put.

But suppose there is no out-yard, and it is desired that there be no returning. One may shake into an empty box, or, better, a box having wire-cloth sides, bees from, say, three or four nuclei, and then put the box down cellar. The more different lots of bees one can get in the mix-up, the better. After they have been down cellar for twenty-four hours, they may be put anywhere on a permanent stand, and there will be very few of them that will go back. But this again involves considerable work.

Thus far we have said nothing about the queens and the possible fighting on the part of the united bees. As to the queens, if the apiarist is not particular, the bees will take care of that, leaving but one queen. We said the bees; for we do not know whether the bees do the eliminating, or the queens fight it out, leaving the victor the mother of the colony. But certain it is, nature seems to take care of it if the apiarist does not take a hand in it.

But suppose there is a choice of queens (and there usually is). He will then kill the least desirable one and introduce the other in an introducing cage. It may not be necessary to cage, but as a matter of precaution we would advise it.

The queen problem will be nicely taken care of if one of the lots of bees is queenless and the other has a queen. In that case, put the separate sets of combs with the bees together; and if there be no fighting, the queen will be accepted. Another good plan is to put one family up stairs and the other below. But do not mingle the combs at the time of uniting.

But how about the bees fighting when put together? This depends much on the season of the year, the strain of bees, or whether they are well supplied with stores. With ordinary gentle Italians there will be little or no fighting in uniting. But if both strains be hybrids, Cyprians, or other cross strains, there will probably be some trouble; in such cases, feed before uniting. We had two lots of

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bees united that by one fighting always advisable two families to by a wire-cloth there will prob when the bees g to death, the or smoke, sometime in the smoker.

If the uniting cool weather the from fighting th place early in S

Where one is r and he has reache with a lot of we anticipate the wo the hives in pair: then is to take and after that, F one. The hive united forces is between where th This will then c both hives. If t groups of three, ti placed in the cent two are removed Bee Culture.

## ONTARIO (

The following st condition of crops upon returns from date of August 15 the Ontario Depart Fall Wheat—This out, owing to the vailing at the time erable sprouting oc was stooked. A fa was cut early, and condition, and in s said to be plump weight. The straw stood up well, and ported. Scattered n was made, but ent years. Special correspondents of i y sparrows. Cutt second week of Jul month.