

It should be noted that "stinglessness" is one of those characters that would immediately disappear should the bee possessing it get crossed with ordinary bees. To get the benefit of such a character it would be necessary for the queens heading each colony to be purely mated. In England, owing to the fact that the apiaries are situated very near together, the great majority of the queens bred get mated by drones of the ordinary English black variety, and I think that in order to get the purely-mated queens at a reasonable price it would be necessary to import them from some country that is thinly settled and yet possesses a warm enough summer climate for bee-breeding. Canada would probably be the best country. There ought to be no difficulty in delivering Canadian-bred queens alive in England. During the past nine summers I have received at my apiary near Dover, England, weekly parcels of queens from West Virginia, U.S.A., from about mid-June to about mid-October. My figures are not at present available, but from memory I should say that about 90 per cent. of these queens have arrived alive. They have come by mail and have cost only two cents each for transmission. The workers accompanying them have generally arrived in sufficiently good condition to post them on in the original cages to purchasers in any part of the United Kingdom, including out-of-the-way places in Scotland and Ireland.

"Stingless" bees may, or may not, be a success, but in any case it would seem that Canada is likely to provide a good, if not the best, breeding ground for any artificial variety of the honey-bee, whether its special characteristic be "stinglessness," honey-production, disease-resistance, non-swarming or mere beauty.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 9.

[The newspaper paragraph in question is as follows:

"The stingless bee is the next product of a man's ingenuity. Mr. Burrows, an apiarist of the town of Lough-ton, in Essex, after two years of experiments, has obtained a species of bee which can be handled by a child in perfect safety. He mated the Cyprian drones and the Italian queens, the result being the production of harmless insects, which, however, are splendid workers. It is claimed that they are less liable to disease than the ordinary honey-gatherer.

"It appears that the new product has a sting, but it is useless as a weapon of offence. Yet they die when they lose it."

Mr. Morley Pettit, to whom the *Farmer's Advocate* referred the statement, replied in our contemporary as follows:

Of all the newspaper stories made out of whole cloth, this is the limit. As you know, no radical change in the life and physiology of any organism has been materially accomplished with only two years' experimenting, and as all bee-keepers know, if you cross Cyprian drones with Italian queens, you will get a result that is far from stingless. My earliest recollections of life in the apiary are of a particular corner of the apiary where bees of just this parentage had their hive. I was always careful to keep as far from that part of the apiary as possible, and whenever it was necessary to open those Cyprian crosses I always managed to have the smoker going particularly well, as the Cyprian bees and their crosses are the crossiest bees that any bee-keeper ever undertook to handle. The Cyprians are particularly good workers, but from this characteristic of being hot-tempered and unreasonable, and almost impossible of control by smoke, they are not kept to any extent for commercial purposes.

Most bee-keepers who have handled bees containing a dash of Cyprian blood will be skeptical as to the possibility of obtaining a "stingless" bee from the Cyprian-Italian cross. Nevertheless, as Mr. Sladen has shown, "no radical change in the life and physiology of any organism" would be involved. There is no radical or physiological difference between a quiet and an extremely bad-tempered colony.—Ed.]

October, 1912

THE HONEYBEE

The lamentable representative display at the recent Toronto, say the occasioned considerable apiarists. It was regulation enforcement taking away the honey formerly one exhibitor put he had shipped ing notice that led to retail unregular concession *Farmers' Advocate* on exactly the beekeepers make tive and suggestive ordinary concession wares as food d much modified ra case of honey ex informed and ex *Farmers' Advocate* following comment "It seems the only persons having tailing without pa privilege has no from them. Som surely have to be exhibit of honey at al, because it is or tive farm displays t say that the possi \$300 in prizes would ment to get beekeepers without the tailing honey, especially advertising, but ex Canadian National such a science that undertaking considerable glass that has to be requirements of the to this we have the good, and beekeeper