

are experienced beekeepers. However, such old heads can pass on and leave this article for the beginners who are constantly entering the field of agriculture. Then again, you are receiving new subscribers who do not know very much about beekeeping. Now, to start out with, I always endeavor to have everything in readiness before the swarming season commenced, such as hives, foundations, sections, etc. A few years ago I used to use the Jones hive and make all my swarms by dividing. I soon got sick of the artificial business and converted the old style of hive into kindling wood and adopted the Langstroth hive and let each colony swarm once. I keep all queens' wings clipped. As soon as I notice a swarm coming out of a hive I make for a given cage which should be kept in a convenient place. As soon as the queen comes out and is hopping about the ground I place the cage over her; then I remove the old colony from its present stand for a short distance; then I place a new or empty hive with sets of foundation; I also put a super underneath the new hive for a day or so to give them lots of room and keep them cool. Sometimes I give the new swarm a card of brood from the old stand, which will prevent a new swarm from absconding. Now that I have removed the old colony from its stand the bees, finding that they have no queen, will return to the old stand and enter the new hive which has been placed on it. When quite a number of the bees have marched up into the hive I lift the cage off the queen and she marches in with the remainder of the bees and my swarm is hived. Should a swarm be a little slow in returning I usually give them a few squirts of water from a force pump, which will start them back to their hive at once. Someone will ask, what did you do with the old colony? Well, I place the old colony on a new stand at once. In from two to three days I remove the super from underneath the new colony, put on a queen excluder and remove the surplus box with its contents from the old stock and place it on the new colony, from which I expect to get my surplus and let the old colony build up in good shape for winter. My bees are booming on white and alsike clover. No basswood this year: frost destroyed the bloom.

A. FYFE.

[The above is a good practical article. Mr. Fyfe has kept bees with success for many years and we hope we shall hear from him again.—Ed.]

QUEENS.

Read at the Leeds and Grenville Beekeepers' Convention.

The queen is one of the most important considerations in the apiary. Not only upon her largely depends the numerical strength of the hive, but the disposition of the colony as to vitality, energy, and other traits depend upon the queen and the drone with which she mates.

Careful and dispassionate consideration of all that may influence the queen and her progeny for good or ill may at the present time be of value. The fact that many are ready upon the receipt of a good looking queen to send a letter praising her to the skies is certainly no indication that those individuals have given this matter careful consideration and are open to judge a queen according to true merits. What should the queen-breeder consider before undertaking to supply the public with queens? He should by personal observation or through that of another party, absolutely reliable, have made a selection of a breeding queen. This selection should not be made without having had the queen at for at least one year, and still longer is even better. The progeny of that queen should have as far as possible the following combined traits:—good honey producing qualities, finish of comb honey, non-swarming propensity, good handling qualities, transmit this characteristic to her daughter queens, and beauty. It will be seen I have not said anything about wintering and building up in the spring prolific qualities, and longevity. The reason is that the proof of these lies in the power to produce honey and simplifies the question very much.

Then as to drones in the apiary, as careful a selection should be made and the drones from all inferior strains kept well under. Difficult as it is to select properly the queen, it is yet more difficult to select the drone, and perhaps here is the reason that careful level-headed stock men do not pay greater attention to selection for desirable traits in queens. But because we must run a certain amount of chance on the second half of the loaf is surely no reason why we should spurn that half, and again if we succeed in getting a fairly fixed strain in the queen if she does get mixed with a drone with all kinds of blood in its veins, the fixed strain will very much overshadow the inferior.