

WHOLESALE RE-QUEENING SHOULD BE DONE IN NEARLY EVERY APIARY IN ONTARIO

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No one thing in the whole bee industry is so badly neglected as the queen business—the very thing that so much depends upon for our honey crops. The bee-keepers of our Province have not only neglected to improve their bees by breeding from better stock, but they have left all the re-queening to the bees. This is a very poor system, and one that is responsible for part of the “spring dwindling,” most of the queenless colonies, and lighter honey crops. Colonies with young queens continue brood rearing later in the season, and go into winter with more young bees, come into spring stronger, dwindle less, and build up faster, and gather more honey. For these reasons I go in for re-queening every colony every year, with the exception of a few colonies that have given extra large yields, and these I keep over to breed from, and re-queen one year later. For 25 years I made it a rule when lifting up combs of brood to closely examine the larvæ to see how the bees have been feeding it. I always found the difference to be very great in nearly every apiary that I ever examined. Why should I not, when colonies that had been poor feeders of larvæ had been kept year after year and bred from? Stock of any kind in either a barn yard, apiary or any other place, that is not good feeders of their young, should not be kept to breed from. Italian queens bred from colonies that have given the largest yields are my

choice. On page 17 of the January number of the Bee-keepers' Review for 1908 I read an article from Mr. J. E. Hand on the “Losses that Come as the Result of Aged Queens.” As this article of Mr. Hand's is the best along this line of any that I ever read, and fits in so completely with all my experience, I would like to see it published in the Canadian Bee Journal.

Losses that Come as the Result of Aged Queens

J. E. HAND IN BEE-KEEPERS' REVIEW

There is a certain vein running through the writings of some of our leading bee-keepers, to the effect that strong colonies early in the season are not desirable; that medium ones at the beginning of the harvest will give better results.

That several writers take this view is sufficient proof that it is not merely a freak of the imagination.

These writers have thus far been content to make bare assertions, leaving the reader to draw his own conclusions; consequently, there is a certain air of mystery surrounding this seemingly unnatural result, all of which has a tendency to greatly mystify a simple problem in apiculture.

It is not the intention of the writer to discredit the statements referred to, but rather to remove the mystery surrounding them; giving the cause as well as the cure.