

The Apiary.

The Advantage of Attention to Bees.

BY C. P. D., COLBORNE.

ITALIAN HONEY BEE.—This new species of honey bee is highly commended by those who have had the opportunity of observing and experimenting upon its habits. Its superiority over the common bee is well established. Some of its chief peculiarities and excellencies are the following:—It is a tough, hardy creature, will stand the cold of northern winters better, collect honey much faster, work earlier in the morning and later at night, than our native kind, and will often be seen working when black bees are detained in the hive on account of unfavorable weather. They will collect honey from flowers which other bees pass by. Their proboscis is a trifle larger, and as they are strong and more active, they will frequently tear the anthers of flowers open to obtain the sweets, which the black bees never do. The pure Italian bee is more gentle to handle and less liable to sting than our native kind. The Queens are more prolific, and will brood much faster than the common species, consequently they cast earlier swarms, and more of them. They differ somewhat in color and shape from the common bee. They are larger, and their bodies taper nearly to a point; they have three gold bands encircling their bodies just under their wings. The drones are not so strongly marked. The queens vary in color, some being dark and others quite light, approaching a beautiful gold color. Queens reared when honey is scarce, or early or late in the season, are seldom as large or well colored as those reared in the warm honey season. But this does not generally affect the color or activity of the workers.

THE BEE MOTH.

The bee moth need hardly be mentioned now, unless it be to advise you to drive them out with the Italians, for whenever they are introduced into an apiary, the moths get out without any further trouble. This one feature alone is enough to justify introducing Italian queens in place of the blacks.

BUYING BEES.

The present month is a good time to buy and move bees that are standing out-doors. Sleighing furnishes good transportation. Look out for sufficient honey and plenty of bees; bees ought to be seen in at least five layers between the combs. If in the box hive, invert it, and cover the open end with wire-cloth or muslin, fastening with carpet tacks. Bees ought not to be moved from a cellar or warm room without allowing them to fly for a day in fair weather. If housed, bees sometimes get very uneasy after long confinement; it would be well to set such hives out for a few hours, about noon of some very warm day.

CAVE OF STOCKS.

As a general rule, disturb the bees as little as possible; raise hives that are out-doors, on a warm day, and sweep out the accumulations of dead bees and fragments of comb. Move such as are to have their locations changed before they mark their present places in the spring, otherwise the bees will return to the old spot and be lost. Set the hives four or even five feet apart, unless crowded for room. Hives painted of different colors—light colors are best, because cooler—and standing with the alternate ones advanced a foot, will be found serviceable when they must be placed closer than four feet. Be careful to shade the hives after light snows if the sun comes out bright.

Winter Care of Bees.

It too frequently happens that when we put our bees away in their winter quarters we are not particular enough in knowing the exact amount of honey each stock has to last it through, and often lose them for want of food.

If this is the case, you can easily see the little pets clustered on the combs, and not unfrequently, if you will take the pains to examine, will find them all dead with many of the workers in the cells, and hovered over the queen, which is also dead—starved for want of food.

I have often found them when they presented the above appearance, and have taken them into a comfortable room, sprinkled sweetened water over them and brought them to life again, and then prepared a heavy syrup and fed them during the remainder of the winter. To do this take a glass tumbler, fill it full of the syrup, tie a cotton cloth over it and turn it upside-down on a two-inch hole in the top of your hive, and you will find the bees will take the syrup and store it away in their combs for future use.

You should set the bees in a cellar that is dark and not cold enough to freeze. The temperature should be about 40° or 50° above zero.—J.M.H. in Cincinnati Bulletin.

Honey sent to England in the comb from New York a month ago, for the first time, reached Liverpool safely on the 5th, and the experiment is pronounced successful. Cannot our Canadian bee-raisers take a hand in this trade? *The Pall Mall Gazette* says there is no limit to the demand for honey there.

List of Officers of the Agricultural Societies.

FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARIES.

Last year we tried to procure the names of the officers of Agricultural Societies from the Bureau at Toronto, but the list was incomplete. We give the following list of officers elected for 1879, received at this office:—

AMELIANBURGH, N. S.—President, Geo. H. Sprung; Vice President, John G. Peck; Sec. and Treas., Edward Roblin.

ADELAIDE.—President, John Crummer; Vice President, W. T. Galloway; Sec. and Treas., Robt. Forsyth, sr.

BRUCE, SOUTH.—President, R. Rivers; 1st Vice President, A. Wechter; 2nd do., Joseph Hinton.

CORNWALL.—President, John B. Macdonald; 1st Vice President, H. Lowell; 2nd do., C. H. Wood; Treasurer, A. P. Ross; Secretary, Robt. Anderson.

DELAWARE.—President, Wm. S. Weld; Vice President, E. G. Hacker; Sec. and Treas., A. Thomas.

DURHAM, EAST.—President, Col. Williams, J.P.; 1st Vice President, R. Howden; 2nd do., R. Grandy; Sec. and Treas., John Foott.

ELGIN, EAST.—President, S. Day; 1st Vice President, George Lawton; 2nd do., Mark Wallace.

ESSEX, SOUTH.—President, Theodore Wigle; 1st Vice President, Hanson Elliot; 2nd do., Thos. Armitage.

FRONTENAC.—President, Henry Cuninghame; 1st Vice President, D. J. Walker; 2nd do., J. M. Fair; Treasurer, J. Simpson; Secretary, T. Mills.

GREY, NORTH.—President, Wm. Roy; 1st Vice President, Major Cameron; 2nd do., John Douglas; Secretary, R. Todd; Treasurer, Thomas Gordon.

HASTINGS, EAST.—President, P. R. Palmer; 1st Vice President, D. R. Leavens; 2nd do., Wm. McLaren; Secretary, J. W. Sills; Treasurer, Jas. McCready.

HALDIMAND.—President, Geo. Murray; 1st Vice President, Maxwell McClung; 2nd do., John Lynch; Sec. and Treas., Wm. Musson.

HALTON.—President, T. Boak; 1st Vice President, J. Brothers; 2nd do., W. J. Pettitt; Sec. and Treas., W. C. Beaty.

HURON, SOUTH.—President, Dr. Coleman; 1st Vice President, James Pichard; 2nd do., Hugh Love, sr.; Sec. and Treas., G. E. Cresswell.

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MAIDSTONE AND SANDWICH EAST.—President, Patrick McNalby; Vice President, John Halford; Treasurer, Thomas Moran; Secretary, T. F. Kane.

MONCK.—President, Mathew Gash; Vice President, David Price; Sec.-Treas., John A. Whitmore.

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VICTORIA SOUTH.—President, Thomas Ray; 1st Vice President, W. L. Russell; 2nd do., James Thorndike; Sec.-Treas., James Keith.

It is found in England that many of the artificial manures act chiefly as a stimulant, and that after a time the land refuses to answer the spur. This is most apparent on the poor and lighter soils, but even strong land loses heart unless a fair proportion of farm manure is applied. The loudest agricultural complaints in Great Britain are from districts where scientific farming has been carried to its highest pitch, such as the Scotch Lothians, and in Norfolk.