

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, OHIO.—To get drones early in the season, place drone comb in the centre of the brood. To prevent them being killed in cold weather, remove their queen, or feed.

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, COLIN CO. TEXAS.—Procure a maiden queen of the best blood that is over 40 days of age, and winter her in a stock of young bees well supplied with stores.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—By feeding a little each day, and by adding capped brood from other hives will secure very early queens. Removing queen will prevent killing of drones.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—Put an empty drone comb in the centre of a well bred Italian or any other kind you want to breed from, feed them a little every night and keep them warm when there is no honey coming in.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Strong stocks will breed drones early enough for all practical purposes without any effort on your part, provided they have plenty of stores. To prevent bees from destroying them, feed liberally when there is no honey coming in.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Place a frame of drone comb in brood-nest of a colony containing an old queen. To keep them late in season, feed a little every day or take away the queen.

H. COUSE, CHELTENHAM, ONT.—Select combs that have a patch of drone comb in the centre and place one or two at a time near the centre of the brood chamber of your strongest colonies. See that they have plenty of food, and, when there is no honey coming in, feed them every evening.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—You can get drones early by uncapping a frame of drone comb honey and placing it in the centre of a strong colony, meanwhile, feeding the colony freely. You can keep the drones in any colony in the fall by removing the queen and supplying the colony with abundance of stores.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—All I desire to say regarding this subject is, that it has always been best for myself and customers for queens, not to crowd the season at either end by trying to raise queens very early or very late. If you must have queens extremely early in the season, I advise purchasing them from those who have either carried them over from the year before or raised them in an earlier latitude.

A. L. SWINSON, GOLDSBORO, N. C.—I often keep bees with *drones* as late as Dec 15th, I have

done so till February. I use a colony or two to *keep drones*—specially, all through the latter part of a season. I keep them *without any queen*, but give eggs and brood, to keep off "fertile works," every 15 or 16 days, but remove *all* queen cells before they hatch. To these colonies, I give my best drone brood and let it hatch there with them. There they remain, through thick and thin, till nature disposes of them. 'Tis the only way I have ever been *fully* successful in keeping them.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—To get early drones, insert a comb which has a patch of drone cells near its centre, right in the midst of the brood, if the comb is empty and dry, partly fill it with warm diluted honey before inserting it. After all, some colonies, not at all interfered with, may give you drones first. Last season, I had a young queen hatched in March, as cold as that month was, and while standing in the apiary watching the bees fly on a sunshiny day, I heard the familiar "whiz" of a drone's wings and succeeded in tracing him to a hive. My young queen was mated in good time.

Written for the *Nor.-West Farmer*.

#### THE BUSY BEE.

BY THOS. COLLINS, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

HAVING been asked by several people in Ontario as well as Manitoba for my opinion as to the possibilities of successful apiculture in this country, I think I cannot do better than to publish a short account of my experience in bee-keeping during the past year, in your excellent journal, that those interested may draw their own conclusions and govern themselves accordingly.

On the 3rd of November last year I put away in my cellar eight hives, six being chaff-hives and two the common simplicity; the whole being as I thought well supplied with stores, and well protected by chaff cushions. On the 5th of April, the weather being favorable, and the bees appearing very uneasy, I put them out, two (one in chaff and the other in common hive) being in good condition, and the other four very weak. The weather after this turned cold and bleak, and through this and probably other causes, they dwindled down until eventually I had but one strong colony left. This I added to by purchasing four 2-frame nuclei, and thus commenced my season's operations. From this stock, after the most extraordinary vagaries in the way of swarming, and after losing at least two strong swarms by absconding, I have now ten colonies, which, however, I intend to reduce to eight by doubling up. Four of these (in chaff hives,) I intend to bury in a clamp,