



APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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BEE MATTERS

Written for the CANADIAN FARMER.

I must say your apiary column is very interesting. I hope it will continue so in the future. Bees are scarce in this neighborhood, but hives are plenty and they are sold very cheap, in fact a great many are going to waste in some places. Bees so far appear to be strong and healthy, and brought in pollen the 31st of March, the earliest known for years in this section, and have been doing very well ever since, carrying in both pollen and honey. Some of my neighbors had several swarms that melted down last summer, leaving but four or five inches of comb on the frames, at the same time destroying a large number of the bees. Those colonies they put in the cellar and they come out all right with a little feeding. I hope some one will let us know how to keep comb from melting down during the hot weather the last of July and August. I have seen some cut green brush and lay it on the top of the hive to prevent melting. There have been few colonies died the last winter in this section, out doors or in the cellar. It was an easy winter on them. We have heard tell of some swarming out for the want of honey, and we think there is fair prospects of a large yield of honey this season. I think that in three years bees will be just as plenty as they were two years ago. I don't believe bees do as well in this vicinity as they do with our bee king D. A. Jones, or probably he understands the business better. There is a large amount of honey going to waste every year because there are not bees sufficient to gather it. Every farmer on 50 acres of land should keep three or four hives at least. We have heard some farmers remark that they cannot be bothered when working on the far end of the farm to be called up to have a swarm of bees. Others say if the women would hive them they would keep bees, but when the bees swarm the women all retreat to some back room half frightened to death. That's not the case with all. Have seen ladies handle bees with as much skill as any man, and not be frightened over a little bee sting either.

R. C.

SWARMING BEES

First, I would like to know how to swarm bees in patent hives; how you make the racks stationary, whilst you get the bees in?

Second. Would it pay me to buy bee-swarms at \$3 in common square hives for breeding purposes?

How do you fasten bee foundation on racks? As I am green at the busi-

ness, I have commenced on a small scale.

CHAS. PETTIT.

1. I set the hive where I want it, then arrange the racks as desired. The bees popping into the entrance never moves the racks. After the swarm have all popped in, lift the hive, carry it carefully to where you wish it to remain.

2. It would depend on the season, and the way they were managed. I would advise you to get a Cook's manual; it will give you much valuable knowledge in science.

3. You can fasten it with melted wax by pressing it to the top bar with a putty knife. By keeping the knife wet it prevents sticking; the wax and top bar should be warm. It can be done very rapidly, where you only have a few. To put on the foundation it is better than melting wax. A little practice will enable you to do it well, and you will secure straight combs by merely putting on a narrow strip.—D. A. JONES.

OBSERVATIONS AND QUERIES AS TO THE JONES HIVE

Bees have come through winter pretty well, and now they are busy every warm day. I have used frame hives the last twelve years, but my neighbors with two exceptions use the old box hive. Mr. Jones offers hives very reasonable. I wish he would give us a description of his hive, the size, and what arrangement he has for surplus honey. Does he use the 1 lb. sections? Will he answer through the CANADIAN FARMER?

W. M. MOWBRAY.

Lambton Co.

The inside measurement of my hive is twelve and one-eighth wide, by eighteen long, by fifteen deep. It is so constructed that it requires no feeder; the honey is taken from the body of the hive either comb or extracted. Section honey is taken more easily, and of superior quality, being richer, thicker and finer than by the old way. It was the honey taken on my new method that took the first prize at Toronto. I don't like comb honey in any other way, and use sections of the latest designs.

D. A. JONES, Becton

The next regular meeting of the Norfolk County Bee-keeper's Association will be held at my place, Atherton, 6 miles west of the town of Simcoe. The last meeting was held at Lynnvilly, the last Thursday in March. Trusting you may be pleased to give the next meeting a notice in your paper, I am yours, a subscriber through the O. B. K.'s Association.—H. W. COOK, Atherton, Ont.

TWO QUESTIONS RE-ANSWERED.

"How can bees be prevented from swarming?" They cannot be entirely stopped from swarming, but in great part they are prevented not only by giving the queen laying room, but by the combined result of giving laying room for the queen and room for the surplus, and having the boxes on both sides and the top, and taking off the boxes as they are finished up, thereby keeping the bees building comb all the while, and not having the top of the hive so tight as to confine the heat so closely in the hives as to cause the bees to cluster outside. If the above points are observed, not even ten per cent. of the stock will be apt to swarm. To explain more fully I will give a *modus operandi* that I practice. Give your stocks only as many combs as the queen will keep well filled with eggs (six or seven Langstroth, American or Quinby frames,) and as soon as the young bees begin to hatch plenti-

fully, but not so much as to be crowding, give the stock a frame of sections, (surplus honey boxes) with foundation or comb starter in one side, and as soon as the bees begin to work in the section, give them another frame on the other side of the brood combs. When they are well at work on these, give them an upper case, putting the boxes from the side into the upper case, placing a frame of fresh sections between those being worked in and a fresh frame of sections on each side of the brood, and in that way the young bees are set to work instead of being the mischief-making preparations for swarming, and if fresh sections are given as fast as the bees become numerous enough to occupy them, and take out the full ones as fast as finished, putting empty ones in their place. Next be sure that every queen has her wings clipped close off, and if they then show a disposition to swarm, take a frame of capped brood from the centre of the nest, giving one empty frame in its place. The frames thus taken from several hives can be given to a weak stock. The more swarming is prevented the more profitable the bees are.

"How can bees be handled when neither smoke nor sweetened water will subdue them?" "Use puff ball or sprinkle them with water." Sprinkling them with water will do very well provided they are well drenched to prevent their flying, and if a teacup of sugar is mixed with a quart of water it makes the water have a better effect and more lasting. Puff ball is both sickening and suffocating. It affects the brood as well as the bees, not uncommonly killing the brood, and when the bees revive from its effects they are generally worse than before. I would advise to lacerate the combs instead of using a puff ball. A good way is to close up the hive, drum on it gently for two or three minutes, let it stand two or three more then examine it in peace.—Farm and Home

STARTING AN APIARY.

Spring is undoubtedly the best time to start an apiary. The danger of loss in wintering is past, and bees have little brood and honey, so that they can be moved easily and safely. A person unacquainted with bees should beware of purchasing "a pig in a poke" as every hive containing comb and bees may not be a perfect colony. We may infer that a colony is all right if during the early spring months, the hive is full of bees, as such a colony must contain a young, vigorous queen. It is poor policy for a beginner to purchase black bees in boxes and gums, intending to transfer and Italianize. Such work as this barely pays in the hands of skilful veterans, and had not better be undertaken by novices. A better plan would be to select the hive of a desired pattern for the whole apiary, as the profit and pleasure derived from it consists in a large degree, in having every part of each hive exactly alike. The life of many a colony of bees is saved by giving it a frame of brood or honey from a more prosperous one, and this could not be done if the frames and hives were not all alike. If a person is not able to secure a strong colony in the hive preferred, then a new hive of a desired pattern might be taken to a bee keeper, and a first swarm put into it.

Bee-keeping is a science, and not acquired in one day, by talking with a person who "who knows all about bees." Therefore to insure success commence slowly with not more than two swarms, and let your knowledge increase with like ratio as your bees.

If you can make money with these, it will be safe for you to invest in more. It is absurd to suppose that a person who knows nothing about bees except that they sting and make honey could manage a large apiary successfully.

We once knew a man who embarked in the bee business with a brass band and colors flying. He had "struck it rich," and was going to glut the market with honey. He started an apiary by buying a large number of bees of an apiarist who was emigrating west. Fortunately it was in the spring, and the bees went bravely to work for their new master, and stored a large amount of surplus. In the fall he had got all his money back, and had his bees and hives to boot. It was lucky for him that he got it back the first season, for the next one found every corner of his yard piled full of deserted hives. Like the organ grinder:—"The monkey had died, and so he gave up the business."

From *Der Elstadt Bienen Zeitung* I see that the food with which the bees feed the young larvae is not, as some imagine, a mixture of honey and pollen. Dr. Lucknard says, if it was a mixture of honey and pollen the pollen could easily be seen by a high powdered microscope. No pollen could be found in that white substance deposited by the bees around the larvae in the cell. He says that the food for the young larvae is the product of a complete digestion of pollen and that it can be compared with the milk of mammals. Later the larvae gets with the food a portion of undigested pollen. According to the amount of pollen a bee larvae occasioned in the food, the cells will be more or less colored by the same. The larvae never discharges any excrement in the cell, but after becoming a nymph it will do so, leaving the excrements in the nymph skin.

NOTES FROM GEORGIA.—I believe I gave you my idea in my last article, of a need of a record of the dates of the blooming of the different flowers in my section. I believe that such a record will be of interest to some of your subscribers, even those at the north, and I am sure, for referring to, will be of considerable interest to me. Therefore I propose keeping up with the bloom of my neighborhood and give it to you for publication along with other matters that I think worth reading. We have had very changeable weather this winter, and rather warm for the season, but still cold enough to save meat. My bees all came through alive—but two were robbed out last week, while I was absent. They swarmed out and my wife hived them and shut them up till I came home. I united them with a swarm that had some honey and now I am feeding them. On the 15th I saw the first pollen going in a hive of black bees—to day. (Jan. 19th), one of my Italian stocks is bringing it in, and butterflies are sipping the flowers. Yet several days of cold will intervene between now and settled warm weather. But I am going to take advantage of these warm spells to build every stock up to for the earliest flow of honey.

PHYSICIANS and druggists have been in the habit of charging patients and customers more than many of them are able to pay. We are glad to inform our readers that Alack's Magnetic Medicine is sold at the low price of fifty cents a box, a quantity sufficient to last over six weeks. Read the advertisement in another column. For sale by H. W. Hobson, Welland, and all druggists everywhere.