

of said bee-house, furnishing a magnificent shade for the bee-hives as well, raising plenty of the finest of grapes each year, which are often left on the vines quite late in the fall and not a grape have I ever discovered as yet, being destroyed by the bees, although some seasons have been very unpropitious for honey, causing me to feed several stocks quite short in stores for their winter supply. But not a grape have I ever noticed being punctured or harmed by the bees, although many times the vines would hang very near the hives with plenty of the ripe fruit on them. This howl against the bees harming ripe grapes must surely come from those who are not posted or by some innate principle of natural hatred having concluded to make war on the bees. It seems to me that if any fair minded and unprejudiced fruit grower would take the time and pains to investigate the subject as they should, could without much difficulty learn the facts as stated above and not condemn and charge the honey bee with such false accusations, as being guilty of destroying fruits of any kind while growing or ripening on the vines or trees, while on the other hand there are thousands of proofs in favor of the bees as being of great value in bringing about proper and much needed fertilization in many of the finest growing fruits in all parts of the United States as well as in all Europe. It has been practically demonstrated that bees are of great use and benefit in bringing about a proper fertilization in many of the fruits and berries grown, which could not be successfully matured without the aid of the honey bees. Let us hear from the opposing parties; with such facts as are true and not hearsay evidence, which is not good in court, or will not be admissible.

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For the Canadian Bee Journal.

#### FERTILE WORKERS.

**H**AVING observed some curious traits of these peculiar specimens of bee-life I submit them to the bee-keeping public.

One of my colonies was rather weak this spring but had a queen when looking over them soon after setting them out of the cellar. I fixed this one up and did not open it for some time knowing they had plenty provisions. Some time ago on looking at it I found no queen but considerable irregular raised brood proving it the work of fertile workers. I thought then of trying a plan of getting rid of them or getting them back to their normal condition. Accordingly on a day of a second

swarm I secured a young queen in a cage, went and took all the combs from them leaving them to roam around the empty hive for probably twenty minutes, then loosing the queen among them left them until they clustered on the quilt above. I then gave them a frame of brood from another colony and two empty combs and closed the hive leaving it a few days. On opening the hive I found no queen but the workers were still laying in the empty comb; I thought they had baffled me, so closed the hive in disgust. Some few days afterwards curiosity tempted me to look again, when, to my delight the queen (which must have been out on her bridal tour the previous time) was laying regularly in the worker comb. Here she was on the same comb with two or three dozen fertile workers which occupied principally a patch of drone comb piling the eggs in by the dozen—they reminded me of a shoal of suckers in the bottom of a pond in midsummer—while holding the comb every little while they would back down in and deposit an egg. I do not know what her majesty thought of this for she would go in head first to see if the cell was empty and finding the bottom literally covered with eggs come out again I suppose smiling inwardly saying to herself: "That's too much for me."

THOMAS STOKES.

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It was evidently a case of fertile workers and if you had left the combs in the hive, it would have been very difficult to introduce a queen without the use of chloroform, but by the removal of all combs from the hive sufficiently long to allow the bees to learn their combless condition. There is no difficulty when the queen is in with them to shake them all up together and there is very little danger of losing a queen if introduced this way. We would advise you to shave all the heads off the young drones as fast as they are capped over, and if there are any combs which the queen has not laid in yet, that are not capped over, by laying them down and tapping them, there will be no difficulty in future, and allowing them to remain for an hour the drone brood will be removed by the bees. The heads may be shaved off the drones and the bees will quickly remove them from the cells. This will give your young queen ample room, but should they be scarce of young bees you might shake some down in front of the hive as spoken of in the JOURNAL a short time ago.