

Bee-Scouts Selecting a Home.

FIND that the little bee will bear a great deal of close study, and then we may not understand all of its ways. Of late there has been a good deal said about bee-scouts, some claiming that bees have scouts that go in search of some proper place for their future home, which they usually find in some hollow tree before they migrate, while others ridicule the idea. So I will tell a little experience of my grandfather's I have heard him tell it many times.

He was quite a bee-hunter. He says he found a bee tree, as he supposed: the bees were flying in and out freely, and he thought he could cut the tree and save the bees in a hive, it being swarming time.

So he took the hive and the necessary things and commenced cutting the tree, but before he had it down, what should he see and hear but a swarm of bees that came and located in the very place where he thought he already had a colony. He continued, and cut the tree, but instead of finding an old colony with its honey, he found a swarm with nothing but bees, which he saved in the hive.

His conclusion was that the bees were there to inspect and prepare the tree for their future home, and I never could talk him out of the idea.

Now, a little of my own experience is, that at two different times I have followed absconding swarms, and kept up with them, one mile or more until they went into a tree where they staid. They went straight to their destination and I think they knew where they were going.—
JOHN KIDNEY in *A.B.J.*

How I Began Bee-Keeping.

IN July 13, 1889, an after-swarm settled in one of my apple trees, and having no former experience in bee-keeping, I started in a rather queer way to hive them. I wrapped a sheet around my head, climbed into the tree and began hiving them in a cracker box; in the course of an hour I succeeded in getting all the bees into it. I went that evening to a neighbor who kept bees, and purchased a hive with drawn combs. The next morning he came and put them into the hive for me. They succeeded in getting enough stores for the winter. The next season being a poor one for honey in this locality, I increased my colony to three, one being a prime swarm and the other a nucleus. They gathered only honey enough for winter stores. Last spring I started with three colonies, and increased them to ten, three being prime swarms,

and four nuclei. I also got 20 gallons of fine white honey, the most of which was basswood. I also caught a runaway swarm in the meadow. I started mowing in the morning, but before I got around the lot I mowed through a swarm of bees. I went home immediately, got a hive and drawn combs, and set it, without a bottom, over the swarm, which again settled in the grass. In the course of 15 minutes they were all in the hive. I then took them home, and they did well. Thus I have 11 colonies in the cellar in good condition. On Aug. 21, 1891 I secured a pure Italian queen, and she has reared about five frames of brood, with which I am well satisfied. I also received another Italian queen about Oct. 10, but as it was so late she reared no brood. By next fall I intend to have all Italian bees, as I am best pleased with them.—
DANIEL GERREER, in *A.B.J.*

Oakwood, Wis. Jan. 10, 1892.

Vaseline for Stopping Robbing.

IPROMISED to give some further account of an upset among my bees in consequence of an attack by robbers through the careless replacing of a hive roof. The robber bees got into the super in hundreds, and, after the roof had been righted, they crowded about every joint and crevice of the neighboring hives, as well as the one in question. So I got smokers in play, and as the bees were smoked off, I painted the joints with vaseline. To my great relief, I found that this stopped the robbing, for not a bee would come within an inch of where the vaseline was. To make doubly sure, I also painted around the entrances, being careful, of course, to keep it off the alighting-board.

By this time the prisoners in the hive roof were trying to escape by the cones, as I had stopped the entrances to the latter, while applying the vaseline; so before I released them I painted around the base of each one in the same way and this effectually stopped the attack in that quarter, for in less than an hour all were working as usual. Not a bee was killed, not a sting inflicted, and peace was restored.

Another "dodge" that I have found effectual is this. On the morning of the day on which you are going to take the honey, put a couple of pieces of naphthaline at the ends of the frame next to the sides, and it will stop any stranger bees from entering the hive by the usual entrance.—
—T. H. C., in the *British Bee Journal*.

"Bee-Keepers' Pamphlets," by D. A. Jones, mailed on receipt of 5c. Address, THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.