

queen too early. If these things are not attended to, what will be the consequence? Your colony will be put in winter quarters far short of the bees it should have, and when spring comes you will find that you have a lot of weak colonies. You say, "How am I to avoid this?" Quite simple. Remove the outside combs, which are full of honey, and replace with empties put in the centre. Your young queen is thus given a chance to do her best before the closing of the laying season, and you will find when the time for fall feeding comes that your colonies are flowing over with young bees. A colony should have at least twenty-five pounds of honey to winter on, so be sure to feed up all colonies having less.

The combs you have taken out to give the queen a chance to lay you will put away till feeding time, and then you can give them back as winter stores. One of the secrets to procure a large crop is to have good queens. My own experience for the past twenty-five years has been that the best results were obtained from a colony that was put out in the spring with a young queen of the previous summer. But remember **all** young queens are not a success. I know of some apiarists who make a practice of requeening every hive yearly, but I would not advise that, either, for I have had queens laying at the age of three years that could not be beat.

Now for the spring, when you put out your bees. I have always made a practice of putting them out at night, as it avoids mixing up the next day. But make sure to have a fine day. Help the bees to clean their bottom-boards by replacing with a clean board. In about a week see that all colonies have a laying queen; if not, double up. Make sure they are not short of stores; if they are, feed them. Build up your colonies for all you are worth till clover begins. Stimulate if necessary. Now your bees are in prime condition to roll in the honey. Put your combs on in good time, and don't let them get the swarming fever.

As the first set is filled, tier up, and as each store gets capped over, take off by means of the bee-escape. My plan of using the escape is to put it on in the afternoon, and in the morning you are ready to begin extracting. Don't allow your bees to get idle for want of room. Keep them at work. As for your extracting room, it should be bee-proof and everything about it clean and tidy. In my honey-room I use tanks to store away the honey, so that I can fill my tins at leisure. I am quite aware some won't have tanks at all, but fill the tins from the extractor. As for myself, I have no use for such nonsense. It is certainly a loss of time if you are extracting from 600 to 1,000 lbs. a day.

In putting up your honey for market, in whatever form it may be called for, make it as attractive as possible.

Much more might be said on the above subject, such as cleaning combs at end of season, preserving empties not in use, fall preparation, feeding and how to feed, and various other things, but time does not permit. In conclusion I might say that one cannot go by any "cast-iron rules," but a great deal in his own good judgment.

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EXHIBITION RULES

I understand from the discussion which took place on Friday morning, the last day of the recent convention in Toronto, that there is some misunderstanding as to the reason certain changes were made in the prize list of the Canadian National Exhibition for the year 1908, principally the clause relating that all the honey shown must be the product of the exhibitor. As I was directly concerned in this matter I trust you will grant me space in your valuable journal to make my position clear to the bee-keepers, as I did not have an opportunity of explaining at the time of the discussion, being unable to be present at that meeting.

During the four years I have had the pleasure of representing the bee-keepers