

The Apiary of F. J. Davis, Cainsville, Ont.

THERE is perhaps no more rapid method of giving information to the public upon the subject of bee-keeping than by visiting the apiaries of our successful bee keepers, giving their experience from the time they began, and a sketch of their difficulties and what leads to final success. Mr. Davis kindly consented to be interviewed, with the following result.

How long ago did you begin bee-keeping?

About seven years ago. I became interested in bees partly through ill-health, partly through other bee-keepers. I purchased two colonies, which had the seeds of foul brood. Not knowing what was wrong, I battled with the disease for three years, and then through discussion of the subject in the BEE JOURNAL, I discovered I had foul brood. Some I cured by putting the bees on starters, some by putting them on clean combs. Mr. McEvoy, whom I met at this time, gave me assistance.

What hive did you begin with?

The Langstroth double walled is the only hive I have had any experience with, if I except a few hives with an odd-sized frame 14x12. Of this I had just enough experience to want no more apiarian appliances which are not regular lines, for they are a nuisance in the yard.

Do you prefer the double-walled hive?

Yes, because I winter outside, and the bees are less trouble and come out better in the spring?

Why do you, considering cost, prefer the double walled hive to a single walled put in a clamp during late autumn, winter and spring?

Because I have not the time to do this clamping, and it may be left undone; with double-walled hives they are ready all the time?

Do you take comb or extracted honey?

Both.

How do you take extracted honey?

I put supers in as soon as the colony is ready for them. I have in every case a queen excluder between the lower and upper story. No one should attempt to take extracted honey without. Combs are used, not too dark from long use in the brood chamber. Those used one season I consider suitable.

Do you use one or more supers for extracting?

I can only use one with eight frames, but would like to use more. I sometimes extract four combs at a time, sometimes eight, depending on season and prospects. I avoid having to feed in the fall. I allow

comb to be well-capped, not less than three-fourths, before extracting.

Do you keep down swarming?

We never let them swarm more than once. Second swarms are prevented by hiving the bees on the old stand. The bees left in the old hive and on brood combs are removed with the brood combs and generally united with brood combs and some bees in the same condition. Empty combs are then put in the lower story of the colony from which the swarm has issued, and the swarm returned. The old super, unless full, remains in the old hive. This prevents lifting of chaff hives, and also prevents after swarms.

There is one danger in this system with a beginner. If the queen is lost they have no way of replacing her, therefore, the combs should be examined in about a week's time to see if they contain brood.

How do you work for comb honey?

By using wide frames in the supers.

Do you think this is the best way of running for comb honey?

It is for me. I can run for comb and extracted honey in the same hive. In the early part of the season I run for extracted honey (say during fruit blossom), and when clover comes turn to comb.

You know there are but few clinging to that system?

Yes, I know I am considered somewhat of a crank on this question, but I can secure better with my system every time, I think.

Do you use full sheets of foundation?

Yes, in sections as well as brood chamber. It pays best in many ways. I use one piece sections.

How about preparing for winter?

After the brood is all hatched remove combs not well filled with honey and replace them with full combs of sealed stores secured previously from the upper story.

Why do you do this?

It is the least trouble, and there is no danger of bees starving, and there will be no feeding to be done in the spring.

How do you prepare the entrance and the space over the bees? The entrance is left open full width and a board set slanting in front simply to break the wind and sun. Through the winter I see that the entrances are kept clear, and if necessary quietly remove the dead bees with a wire hook. The upper story is filled with chaff.

In spring what?

In April or early in May I examine them to see that they have a queen and are in good condition. If I find they have no queen and the colony is strong I try to secure one. If not strong I usually unite with another colony. If colonies are