

and allowing her to run in with them. Have been very successful in the introduction of queens. I might just say that I introduced an \$11.00 one in 1869 with success, and in the spring of that year didn't know a bee from a wasp.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—To a queenless colony in the spring I would introduce the queen as follows:—By examination I would first ascertain whether there were eggs or young larvæ in the hive, as there would probably be if the colony had been queenless but a short time. Should I find such I would proceed more carefully. I would first destroy any queen cells that might be present, then smoke the colony and insert the introducing cage containing the queen in a central frame, enclosing within it (if present) a few cells of mature brood and some honey. Smoke again and then close the hive. In about a day and a half I would look in, and if I found the bees friendly towards the queen and no more queen-cells started I would release her at once and watch the result. If she was received kindly I would very gently close the hive and would feel quite safe. If the bees were hostile I would re-cage the queen and leave her there till the larvæ all got too old for being turned into queens, or till it was all capped over and would then release again and watch the result. If the bees were still hostile (which, however, does not happen in one case in fifty,) I would again re-cage the queen and keep her there till they would receive her kindly. In cases where the colony has been queenless for some length of time and there is consequently no brood in any stage so much caution is not necessary, as the queen will almost invariably be received after being caged with the bees for twenty-four hours. If, however, the colony has been so long queenless that fertile or laying workers have been developed in the hive and the eggs or false brood are present, equally as much caution (indeed more) will be necessary than in the case of the normal brood. To introduce a queen to a queenless colony during the honey flow is a very simple and easy matter in most cases, and there are perhaps a dozen different methods. The plan I would follow to-day with one hive I might not follow to-morrow with a different colony. The proper way is to act, as in everything else, with judgment under the special circumstances. A cast-iron rule will hardly do for anything outside of mathematics. As the circumstances and conditions change the mode of procedure in dealing with them must change. Bees are something like people in some respects. Some are gentle, others cross—some amiable, others irritable. In introducing a queen

during a honey flow, if the colony is a gentle one, I often do it in this way:—I simply open the hive quietly, lift out a frame, and after smearing the queen with honey let her go on the frame, and if there is no hostile demonstration I gently close up the hive and all is well. Or I shake the bees from three or four frames in front of the hive and after sprinkling them well I release the queen among them, give them another sprinkle and they all run in peaceably together. If the colony to be queened is perverse, obstreperous, and cantankerous, I take the longest road, which is said to be the safest way home. In these latter cases I think it a good plan, and a satisfactory plan, to give them a good dose of chloroform, as our friend Jones does, if I mistake not. As to introducing after the honey season is over I may simply say the roundabout way or cautious method is about the only safe one.

JOSHUA BULL, SEYMOUR, WIS.—To introduce a queen into a queenless colony, I generally use a round wire cage *a la* Doolittle, about one inch in diameter and four inches long, one end of which is permanently closed, the other end is supplied with a movable stopple about an inch long and large enough to fill the end of the cage and slip in and out easily. A five-eighth inch hole is bored through the centre of this stopple lengthwise, a cork is inserted in the outer end, and the balance of this hole is filled with soft candy made of honey and sugar. The queen is put into this cage, the stopple inserted to keep her there, then go to the hive where she is to be introduced, part the frames and place the cage containing queen between two combs, in such a way that the bees can cluster all around it, being careful to have the stopple where it can be removed when the right time comes to do so without disturbing anything else. Press the combs together firmly against the cage to hold it securely and keep it from falling to the bottom, or if the weather is warm, the cage may be laid on top of the frames and a "Hill's device" or something equivalent thereto placed over it so that the bees can cluster around it. Then cover up snugly with quilt or cushion, close the hive and leave them to make their acquaintance with their new sovereign at their leisure. I look in occasionally to see how they are getting along, and when they appear to feel reconciled to the new state of things, I pull out the cork in the stopple and allow the bees to remove the candy and let the queen out, or if I find them feeding her through the wires of the cage, which they will sometimes do when they have thoroughly made friends with her, then I remove the stopple