

Taking advantage of this fact I use all colonies which are too weak to store honey to advantage at the beginning of the honey-flow, treating them thus: Their combs are generally all taken away from them; but sometimes I leave one comb partly filled with brood, and always one of honey, giving the combs of brood to other colonies so that they will be still stronger for the honey harvest."

"What do you do with the combs which are taken away that may not happen to have brood in them?"

"These are stored away to hive new swarms on, if they are perfect worker combs; if not, then they are treated the same as I am about to tell you how to treat those only partly filled, after you have cut the drone comb out."

"Excuse my interrupting you. You see I wanted to know all about the matter."

"When the colony is fixed with its frame of honey, or this frame of honey and one having some brood in it, I next put in one, two, and sometimes three frames with starters in them, just in accord with the size of the colony after I have taken their combs away."

"But that wasn't what I wanted to know. I do not want to have full combs built, but frames partly filled finished out with worker comb. However, I am glad you touched on this matter, for now I know how to get full combs built, should I wish to thus instead of purchasing foundation."

"I said what I did as a preparing of the way for the other, for the method is the same with the one as with the other; only where frames partly filled with comb are to be built out, the comb of brood is not left in the hive."

"Why don't you leave it now as well as with the building of full frames?"

"Because, where the bees are to fill

the frame with comb from the starter, there will be no place for the queen to lay till they build the cells, only as she so lays in the remaining cells in the comb partially filled with brood; and as she had all the room she needed before the combs were taken away from her colony, this sudden stopping of her laying would be an injury to her. But where partly filled frames are given she will have all the room she needs after the brood is taken, as well as before."

"I see the point now. Is the frame of honey as necessary with these partly filled frames as before?"

"Yes. In all cases I see that each of these colonies thus building comb has a frame well filled with honey; for should storms or cloudy windy weather come on at this time they would build no comb of any amount, and might starve; while with the frame of honey they will go right on converting that honey into comb, storm or no storm."

"How soon will they fill out the frames with comb?"

"If the right number of frames is given to suit the size of the little colony they will fill them very quickly especially when honey is coming in from the fields, and each comb will be filled with brood as fast as built."

"How long will they continue to build all worker comb?"

"If not too strong they will generally build comb of the worker size of cell until the bees begin to emerge from the eggs first laid in the newly built combs by the queen; but as soon as many bees emerge they will change to the drone size of cells: or if the little colony is quite strong in bees they may change the size of the cells sooner than this."

"How do you tell about this?"

"As soon as the first frames given them are filled with comb I look to see how many bees they have; and if they are still well stocked with bees

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