

ANSWERS

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CULLOCH,

Mayor.
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perience with and study of the bee. Once you get started you will find it very fascinating. Get a few bees at first, say from two to six. Converse as often as you can with a practical bee-keeper. Buy the book "A B C of Bee Culture." Read a good bee journal. Buy your bees about the first of May to the 24th. Get a practical man to start you off by explaining the internal parts of the hive, together with its technical terms, so that when you read you will understand what is meant. Start off with the idea that swarms are undesirable. You may hear some men say: "My bees are in great shape: They have swarmed twice, and are likely to swarm again!" Such men are not bee-keepers for profit. They "keep" bees, but do not get honey. It is difficult for me to advise you how to start your tenants. Some will take to like ducks to water, but others will be repelled. Select the most intelligent and give among them. Give such persons as you select two or three hives of bees. With a little good advice at the start, a little reading and close observation they should succeed. The first lesson to learn is to know the queen, the drone and the worker bee, and the functions and duties of each. A good bee-keeper will prevent swarming during fruit-bloom and the opening of clover by giving the bees more room—enlarging their hive. But this must be done with caution. It can only be done with strong colonies. Weak colonies can keep only a small space warm. There are many cold, wet days and nights during fruit-bloom. Bees cannot take care of their babies (which we call brood) without warmth. If the brood-nest is chilled to a certain point they will die. The great object of the bee-keeper who wants honey is to make his bees breed, **breed, BREED**—from the middle of March (or earlier if possible) till the opening of white clover, so that, like the general who goes into battle, he may have a large army to quickly attain the object in view in the least possible time. Bees do not make honey—they gather it. Therefore you will want many gatherers. Sometimes the flow is short, sometimes prolonged. You will never be wise as to this, as all depends upon weather conditions. Your tenants will receive great indirect benefit from the bees. They will make your orchards and your fields more productive. Scientists who have made a study of natural history tell us that this is the chief life-work of the bee—the honey it gathers being its food and reward. Owing to its astonishing industry, it gathers much more than it

needs. This is where man steps in and takes the surplus, and, we fear, sometimes a little more than the surplus. Thus it is the bee is twice valuable. Try and have no swarms until your main honey flow is on. Then if you are on the spot to take care of them no harm can be done, because you will put the swarm in a new hive on the old stand, and reduce the old hive down practically to a nucleus. Thus you hold the entire working force of your bees in the new hive on the old stand to reap the crop of honey—almost the same as if they had not swarmed at all.

Then will come the problem of wintering. This is a big problem in itself. A bee-keeper with brains is like unto an artist—always learning, always improving.

By all means, Mr. Mayor, get the bees, start your good people in the work, and the C.B.J. will help you all in its power. From our advertising columns you can see where bees, queens and supplies can be bought.—Ed.

HE AGREES WITH US

I agree with what you say on page 46, bottom of left-hand column, and I notice that the Review in Bee-keeping is to be given as a premium to members of the Oxford and Ontario Society of Bee-keepers (page 55). Now I like the Review, and Gleanings, too, and have had every number of Gleanings regularly since it was first published. Yes, and I have had every number of the Canadian Bee Journal through all its different stages since it was first published by Mr. D. A. Jones, and have always paid promptly when the year came round. Never an editor asked me to renew. I am well pleased with it now. I think Canadians should be loyal to their country and their industries, and Canadian bee-keepers loyal to their own bee journal and support it well. What is the use of shouting "God Save the King" if we are not loyal to our own country in a way that is beneficial to at least that portion of it in which we live?

ILA MICHENER.

Low Banks, March 5, 1909.

[Thanks for your loyalty and help. The tide is slowly coming our way now. Canada WILL have a bee journal.