

cursed, (cursed thistle) with a view to awaken the attention of the agriculturists of our country to its nature and pernicious effects." We ought to get rid of the name Canadian thistle as it conveys the erroneous idea that it belongs in some special sense to our Dominion, whereas it was well known in the old world long before a tree was felled in Canada. The proper botanical name is *cirsium avenae*. It is the barley thistle of England, Scotland and Ireland, and is as well known on the continent of Europe as it is here.

Shutting off the Queen at Close of Honey Season.

ON receipt of the queries below we sent them immediately to a number of our most practical apiarists, so that their answers might appear at this seasonable time, and not be delayed by waiting for the regular query department.

What effect do you think it will have on the queen if at this season of the year she is closed off on two or three frames by using a perforated metal division board.

(1) Will it impair her usefulness if her laying capacity is contracted.

(2) How much more honey per colony will I be likely to get this fall.

(3) And will the brood and eggs to be hatched out after this date in the rest of the brood chamber be too old to go into winter quarters.

I do not think it would affect the queen in any way, more than that she could not do so much brooding.

(1) I think not, if she still has two or three frames to brood in.

(2) No more according to my experience. I always use a top story for my surplus, and cannot speak for those that use the brood chamber.

(3) No, not if they have no fall flow to work on, and yes, if they have.

St. Thomas.

JACOB ALPAUGH.

I do not think it would harm the queen to be closed off on two or three frames. I don't think it would impair her usefulness to restrict her laying capacity.

You will no doubt get more honey by doing so, but it is hard to say how much more.

If you have a large fall flow the bees hatched in August will be pretty well worn out before

winter sets in. Would it not be well to liberate her in September

Holbrook.

MARTIN EMIGH.

While I do not approve, for other reasons of confining the queen on so small a number of frames as two or three at this season of the year, to do so would not I think, impair her future usefulness.

Every queen has I think, a certain constitutional ovipositing capacity in the aggregate. When all the conditions are favorable, this function may exhaust itself rapidly; under less favorable conditions the function will be prolonged while the aggregate capacity will remain the same, that is, is if the unfavorable conditions tend simply to curtail brood rearing and not to impair the vitality of the queen. This is an important distinction which must be borne in mind. Take for instance the case of a weak colony in cold spring weather—weak from bee diarrhoea or some other cause than deficiency in the queen—supposing the queen to be constitutionally prolific and good, her vitality and consequently prolificness will be impaired by such unfavorable conditions. But such conditions are quite different in their effects upon the queen from those created and imposed by a division board or honey board of perforated zinc confining her to a certain number of frames in as much as under the latter conditions the colony is in full health and strength, with no condition present to impair the vitality of the queen. My opinion is that under such circumstances if the queen has but comparatively little room for laying and must deposit more or suffer she will deposit them anyway—a plurality in one cell. We know this is not infrequently done. We also know that a queen will sometimes exhaust herself in a season or so when all the conditions for extensive brooding are present, which would seem to prove that there is a congenital aggregate capacity for egg production which cannot be exceeded. Nor can it be impaired or diminished by any condition not compromising the health and vitality of the queen. I, therefore, conclude that confinement of the queen on a few frames in a strong, healthy colony, of itself will not result in the impairment of her constitutional fecundity.

As to the additional amount of honey such confinement of the queen would secure this fall, that would depend on the character of the balance of the honey season as to duration and yield. Assuming (which we may safely do) that no bees resulting from eggs deposited after this