

BEE-KEEPING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Italian vs. Black Bee, Etc.

Editor C. B. J.:

Dear Sir,—Being a reader of your valuable paper, and a bee-keeper on a small scale, I thought a little information from the West would interest some of the bee-keepers in the East.

I commenced bee-keeping with a Black colony purchased from Manitoba for \$10, and paid \$5 for express. I now have six colonies, all Italians but one, or Italians crossed with Caraboliolans. So far I have found the climate not well suited for bee-keeping—the seasons are too long and too changeable.

Bees will be flying in February and commence to breed. Perhaps in April or May the weather will turn cold and rain all month, and the bees will miss nearly all the fruit bloom. June may be a good month, then July turn so hot that everything will dry up and turn brown with the heat of the sun. All bee-keepers will realize what this means to their surplus. September may be a beautiful month, and perhaps October and November, and the bees will be flying up until first of December working on the fall flowers.

When the bees are flying so late nearly all the old bees are dead and the young bees left to winter. I have noticed the fences with bees sticking to them after a last fly before cold weather, the old bees thinking that their usefulness was gone, and they were better to remain out and not encumber the colony with their remains in winter.

Colonies put into the cellar strong last of November will come through without losing a dozer bees and using very little stores. Black bees are no use here. They will be idle while the Italians will be working; they will be using a small piece of brood an inch

square while the Italians will have one or two combs partly full; the Italians will be out an hour earlier and an hour later. Black bees make excellent stay-at-home people and watch a chance to rob some work colony.

T. S. GILL.

East Kootenay, B.C., May 29, 1906.

[Glad to hear from you, friend Gill, although your report of bee-keeping in the West is not very encouraging. Your experiences with the Blacks would go to prove that they are not well suited to your climate or location, but you will remember that there are good and poor strains of Black, just as there are good and poor Italians. One of the colonies that we had the best results from in honey-gathering last season was a thoroughbred Black, and we would not mind if we had a few hundred colonies like it this season. Personally, have considerable sympathy for the old race; they have scarcely been fairly treated. Had as much care been taken in their selection and breeding as has been with the Italians, their character and reputation would probably be every whit as good.—Ed.]

SOME HONEY CURES AND RECIPES.

D. M. M. in the British Bee Journal, gives the following very interesting list of honey cures and recipes which might be profitably entered in the bee-keeper's housewife's recipe album:

Many bee-books give a few recipes for using honey as an ingredient of food, etc., and a very few mention it as a means of curing some of the many ills that human flesh is heir to. I have purposely abstained from digging into these books, but have picked up a few items at odd times, which I have grouped together without method, and now submit to Journal readers. I think this feature of honey production should be much more extensively dealt with than it is. In fact,