

farmers have discovered that alfalfa makes better and more hay, if cut as soon as it is in full bloom, all of which has a tendency to shorten the honey-flow and render the crop more uncertain than formerly. While from the nature of the case, the yield per colony is materially lessened, progressive bee-keepers have, in a great measure, bridged the difficulty by extending their apiaries over a wide range of territory, and hence it is safe to assume that honey production in America is on the increase, and, as new territory is continually being opened up by irrigating projects in the arid regions of the far west, it is likely to be on the increase for many years to come.

Concerning the mammoth yields from individual colonies, reported by Dr. Gandy, several years ago, such reports as these should not be taken seriously, especially since neighbors, who used the same kind of hives have never heard of any such yields. Let no one delude himself with the idea that all that is necessary in order to secure a crop of 300 or 400 lbs. of honey, is to adopt colossal hives. Location is by far the more important factor in successful honey production; next comes the man and the method; next in order comes the bees, and last of all, the hive.

Birmingham, Ohio.

MR. S. SIMMINS AND THE LANGSTROTH HIVE

By. Wm. L. Couper

I have read Mr. Simmins' article on the deficiencies of the Langstroth hive with considerable interest. I am not concerned to defend the small hive, but I should like to know the source of his information concerning Dr. Gandy's remarkable success. I clearly recollect that gentleman's rather meteoric career in apiarian literature, and unless my memory is very bad the facts do not at all justify Mr. Simmins' contentions. I

regret that I have not the copies of "Gleanings" in which Dr. Gandy's articles appeared.

The first article was not primarily in praise of the large hive (I think he used the Langstroth tiered four or five high), but was intended to prove the practicability of raising huge honey crops by sowing sweet clover and catnip seed. The figures he gave were quite astonishing and E. R. Root, in a foot-note, suggested that perhaps bee-keepers had condemned artificial bee forage too harshly. The next number of Gleanings contained quite a lot of discussion of the Gandy method and amongst other letters one from one of his neighbors, who seemed slightly incredulous that such an enormous amount of honey should have been raised and sold in his district without his knowledge. This was followed by a short letter from Dr. Gandy in which he stated that the large results he had given were from his home yard only. I cannot remember now the exact figures, but my impression is that the total was nothing like so high as 300 lbs per colony for the 500 colonies. Otherwise it seems incredible that the apiarian press would have let the matter drop. I recollect also that Dr. Gandy, in his plea for more room for bees, made the statement that, after one of his colonies had actually started swarming, the addition of an empty super had caused them to stop and return to their hive contentedly. As both Dr. Miller and E. R. Root remarked 'not in this locality.' The returning swarm is a fairly familiar sight to bee-keepers and it seems curious that Dr. Gandy with 500 colonies had not seen it before.

As I mentioned before, I am writing this from memory and the incident is not very fresh, so I will offer apologies beforehand to both Mr. Simmins and Dr. Gandy if my impressions of the matter are incorrect.

Hatzic, B.C.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF REARING QUEENS

By Leon C.

I hesitate somewhat of rearing queens, as a method, but many methods as circumstances seem my methods are most crude, as I don't make that branch of the business try to raise what queen of my own use. However, I designed for that class who are producing queens of my own use it will probably pose.

The methods as used by me is a specialty of the rearing, to me to require a special method. At least I have usually them when I have tried to believe the average bee-keeper puts in more time than I in learning to do it. I find that grafting larvae from other requires more skill to acquire without considering keep from killing them in the hive. One can raise a lot of queens in the course of the season from a single hive by using the following method.

When she has her hive full of brood, hunt out the queen. Shake the bees all off the brood comb, and take the queen from the stand occupied by some other queen you do not wish to keep in this hive, bees and all, to put the beeless brood in it. Hunt out your undesirable queen and destroy her, shaking her from the entrance of their old hive. Of course at once occure with the brood from your old hive and as they have no queen now, they will soon begin to raise one. Ever prodigal