

American Agriculturist.

### BEES IN NOVEMBER.

EVERY observing bee-keeper has noticed the effect upon our calling of unprofitable seasons, like that just closed. Many will become discouraged, others will be indifferent and careless, and the result will be a great loss in bees, combs and fixtures. It is a noticeable fact that such a poor season is almost sure to be followed by a good one. This being the case, every prudent and far-sighted bee-keeper will see the desirability of keeping his stock in the best possible shape, and of holding himself in readiness to make the most of a better season when it comes. We should remember that this is but a temporary embarrassment. We should avail ourselves of every advantage to winter our bees successfully. Preserve all surplus combs and boxes, and keep them in best possible condition for use the coming year. Seasons like this just past are full of experiences that cannot be acquired in any other way. The readers of these notes who continue in the business will more than likely meet such vicissitudes in the future. Instead of being discouraged and faltering, we should learn lessons that will be of value to us in bridging over reverses to come. In this, as in all other callings, only those will succeed who prove themselves equal to the emergencies of the "off years," and embarrassments to which all occupations are liable.

Read, mark, learn and take encouragement from what one of the best American bee-keepers says in the above. L. C. Root, of Mohawk, is the writer.

Western Farmer.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CARNIOLAN BEES.

THE bees of Carniola are noted for their great gentleness. They only rarely resent manipulation, and need very little smoke to subjugate them. It might be thought that they were lacking in pronounced qualities, but on the other hand, they show decided traits peculiar to themselves and accompanied by distinctive markings, and are therefore as justly entitled as any bees found in Europe to be called an established race.

The typical, select Carniolan queen has a deep copper or bronze-colored abdomen, thorax thickly set with gray fuzz, large, strong wings and a large, stout-looking body. Carniolan queens are larger, on the average, than those of any other race, having especially broad abdomens. Some queens are quite dark, even attaining with age a shining jet color. Such queens, though themselves resembling queens of the

common race, do not produce bees in any way inferior to other Carniolan queens. Also pure Carniolan queens are occasionally met with which are as yellow as Italians; yet they invariably produce workers and drones which are distinctively Carniolan.

In all parts of Carniola some queens are found which produce bees having the first segment of the abdomen somewhat rusty-red in color, and they are as often seen among the finest and prolific queens as among those of any other grade. Nevertheless, variation in color and quality is less with Carniolans in their native land than with Italians in Italy. Yellow workers are not found in Carniola, while black bees—natives, too, are not imported—exist in Italy. The remarkable size and general bronze color of Carniolan queens, in contrast with the grayness of their progeny, make it easy to find them on the combs. They are exceedingly prolific and herein lies one of the very valuable qualities of this race.

The drones are veritable "gray-coats," and stout, active fellows, having especially large wings.

Carniolan workers are silver-gray in color, large-bodied and strong-winged. The thick fuzz of the abdomen is disposed in light-colored bands, and as dark drab is the ground color of the bee the effect is a decidedly ringed appearance.

The following are the good qualities of the Carniolans: 1. The race is a prolific, well-established one. 2. The workers are gentler than any other bees. 3. They submit more readily than other bees upon the application of a small amount of smoke. 4. They are excellent comb-builders, and their sealed combs are of snowy whiteness. 5. They gather very little propolis. 6. Colonies in a normal condition are vigorous defenders of their hives. The workers are the largest bees of the species *Apis mellifica*, and their individual strength is greater than of other honey-bees. 7. Carniolans cluster very compactly and quietly, and winter remarkably well. 8. Queens, workers and drones are more beautiful than those of common bees.

Their faults are, so far as I know: 1. When made queenless they are thrown into great excitement and neglect at first to defend their hives well. 2. They are slightly more disposed to rob during honey-dearths, than are Italians, though far less troublesome in this respect than blacks, or Italians crossed with blacks.

Some might be disposed to bring up as a grave fault the disposition which Carniolans frequently show to cast numerous swarms. I believe this disposition in any race depends almost entirely