

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—The Italians are about as good as any. Would prefer the dark or leather color to the light yellow.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—For dollars and cents I prefer the crosses—the Italians and Blacks crossed and the Italians and Holy Lands crossed.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Speak only from races to crosses I have tried, would say that Italians with a slight dash of native bees are best from dollars and cents point of view.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Taking all things into consideration I prefer to buy a pure Italian queen every year or two from which to raise queens or drones and then let the bees take care of the crossing matter.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—That is a sticker. Strange as it may seem, black bees have done best with me all things considered. The best cross I have had was Syrian queen mated with Italian drone. The queen was obtained from D. A. Jones.

S. CORNELL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I have had first class stocks of pure Italians and pure Blacks. I never find fault with a stock because the bees are not pure. I like the bees from a black queen mated with an Italian drone. The largest yield I ever got from one hive (343 lbs.) was from a stock having a dash of Holy Land blood.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Italians every time in this locality. For crossing get an Italian queen from some good breeder several hundred miles away and you will get as great vigor as by using any other race of bees to cross with. If after a trial along this line you find it otherwise your experience will be different from mine during the past ten years.

BY THE EDITOR.—We prefer a cross between Italian, Carniolan and Syrian.

### STRONG COLONY DYING WITH PLENTY OF STORES.

QUERY No. 153.—I had two swarms of bees that went together when they came off. They filled the hive full of comb and honey, and I believed them to be the strongest colony in my apiary. My other twenty-six hives are all living at this date while these are dead, with forty-three lbs. of honey in the hive. Two combs were nearly full of bee-bread (pollen). There did not seem to be any dysentery. What was the cause?—W. Mc., Toronto.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I don't know.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Queenless I guess.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—From data furnished no one can tell.

O. O. POPPLETON, HAWKS PARK, FLA.—Enough data is not given to enable one to form an opinion.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Should say they were queenless and the bees died at old age.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I imagine some accident happened to the queen late in the season, after brood-rearing ceased. The colony then dwindled away, just as if it had been originally only one swarm.

S. CORNELL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Don't know. Fifty five out of one hundred of my stocks prepared for wintering outside, during my absence last fall are now dead. I wish some one would come and tell me what was the matter.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I can't say to a certainty but everything goes to show they were queenless. There is a danger of disabled queens when two swarms go together. The large amount of honey and especially bee-bread left would be good evidence that such was the cause.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I don't know what caused the death, but two or three swarms united at swarming time would be stronger now than if there had been only a single swarm, for the old bees are all dead, and no bees are left except those raised from eggs laid by the one queen since swarming.

BY THE EDITOR.—We think they were queenless. The fact of there being two combs nearly full of pollen leads us to this conclusion. We recollect a similar instance. A person assured us that it was one of the best colonies in his yard, and the cause of their death was a mystery to him. We removed the combs, examined them carefully, and ascertained there had been no brood raised. Several combs were nearly full of pollen, and it was evident that they had become queenless in less than three days after being hived and nearly every cell of the comb was drone comb. By the way, this is a good way to detect a queenless colony. If you examine the comb they are building within a week after hiving, and find them building drone comb you had better give them a queen.

### SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

GATHERING HONEY FROM WILLOW.  
WILLIAM HALES.—I put my bees (26 colonies) in winter quarters on the 19th of November 1894.