

tains a few frames of empty brood combs, and some frames with honey.

We are now ready to open the first hive. Amos you take off the cap, now sit down on the cap on that side of the hive, and I will sit on my tool box chair on this side of the hive. David you just blow in the least bit of smoke at the entrance, and a little smoke on top of the frames when Amos raises the quilt. It will not need very much smoke, as the bees are working so on fruit bloom, and there are so few bees in the hives they are not cross, and the queen is now easily found, and I want to see her. The tag says she is clipt, but sometimes they have reared young queens since last year's clipping, and we want to be sure, and it only takes a moment to find her.

David now you set a clean hive in front of this hive that we have just opened. Now boys all be ready, and all three of us will look with our eyes for the queen, and I will lift the frames, bees and all, and place them into the clean hive just as fast as I can handle them one at a time. There she is now, on the third frame. Now boys be lively, Amos you open another hive in the same way, while I am placing the rest of the frames of brood and bees in the clean hive. I will set the swarm on its own stand, and I will change the tag from the old hive to the new hive, and will place the tag in position to indicate just the condition of the swarm.

Amos you have the next hive open just in time for me to handle the frames until the queen is found. David you scrape the hives that we take the bees out of, you will have enough to do, but if you have any time, just when I begin to lift out the frames, you might look for the queen too. Six eyes are better than two. There, the queen is on this frame, now I will set this frame in the new hive with the queen on it. But Amos look here, do you see that these combs are all nearly filled with brood. Yes, this swarm will be in just as good shape for box honey when the honey flow comes if we take away the frames of this brood. The hive is full of bees now, so Amos you put three of these frames of brood in that comb box on the wheel barrow, and then bring three frames of empty brood combs from the box, and place them in the centre of this hive for the queen to lay her eggs in, and then close the hive. This swarm will be all right.

Boys I want you to be sure and keep the cover on that comb box, so that the brood will not chill, or the bees find the honey. Amos I want you to learn how to do this work so you can work alone, or use a

green hand to help you, when I send you an out apiary to work.

David you know I want these swarms made so they will be about equal, and very strong in time for box honey, excepting a few very poor swarms, we will fix them up later. If you find a queenless swarm that would be worth saving, then unite a weak swarm with it, just at night or in the morning. You know how to do it. When you get the queen and bees all in one hive, smoke them and put a few slices of onions in the entrance of the hive, then the bees don't smell their own odour. I seldom cage a queen when uniting at this time of the season. Boys be sure that every swarm has honey enough to last until June first or longer. Some times bees starve as late as June 1st. The swarms should have 8 or 10 lbs of honey now. I don't want my bees to begin to reason like some folk, that they are getting so poor, and their honey is almost gone, and don't know when they will have any more, and daresn't raise any more babies. No! No! Amos, there is honey enough in the yard for all of the bees by changing the frames properly, and if not, there are some frames in the shop that are full of honey. I saved them on purpose for the bees. I don't buy sugar very often to feed bees, it don't pay. I generally get honey enough in the hives to winter my bees on.

Boys, we are going to finish this yard of 100 swarms before night. We will then have the Queens all clipt and their hives all scraped, and the swarms made as nearly equal as can be made for the first time going over them. But, Amos, you don't know what we are going to do with all of this extra brood. We now have six hives full of it away from the bees when we finish equalising. The few swarms are so poor, we dare not give them more than one frame at a time, lest the bees cannot care for it, and the brood might chill. David you may take care of this extra brood. I will tell you what to do with it. Put a queen excluder on each of six hives that contain swarms. Then take these six hives full of brood, and set one hive of brood on each of the six swarms, above the queen excluder, and the bees will care for the brood all right. But Amos wants to know how long to leave the brood there. That depends on circumstances. These top hives are store houses for brood and honey. If I want to draw brood for any other hive in a few days, I will go to the top hives and get what brood is needed. Or, in a few days it is a good place to get bees, or I can leave it alone and let the brood hatch out, and then the bees will fill