

menced putting honey in the adjoining sections. These colonies were very few in number. The others, which had no more honey than was needed in the brood chamber, as well as many which had not enough for the brood chamber, commenced work in the "bait" section, generally filling and sealing it. I had many supers with the "bait" section filled and sealed, and not another section in the super worked on. So I feel pretty safe in saying that, with such a bait section in the super, my bees will work as readily as I want them to, in the supers. The bait sections are likely to be second class, but there need be only one for each colony, not one for each super.

#### SHALL UNFINISHED SECTIONS BE AGAIN USED.

Since writing the above I have read friend Green's article, on page 449. I think the strongest discussion ever had on the matter of using unfinished sections was at the National Convention, at Chicago, and, if I remember correctly, it was a pretty one-sided affair. I believe I gave no opinion, unless it was to say that sections *partly filled* at the time of putting on, were sometimes watery after being filled. But I've asked myself some questions about it since, one of which was this: If bees will commence and finish a section of foundation quicker than one filled with comb, how does it come that so much more extracted honey can be produced than comb, especially by those who allow the honey to be sealed over before extracting? The Dadants, it is well known, do no extracting till the close of the harvest, leaving the combs to be sealed over, and on page 429 of that excellent book, the Revised Langstroth, they say, "If we give to bees empty combs, to store their honey, we shall find, by comparing the products of colonies who have to build their combs, with those of colonies who always have empty combs to fill, that these last produce at least twice as much as the others." Now, if they produce twice as much in the course of the season, can they not produce it more rapidly? However that may be, there seems to be a pretty plain statement that, in the course of the season, twice as many pounds of honey will be stored in ready-built combs, as in foundation. Now, if that be true of full-sized combs—although the Dadants do not use full-sized combs for extracting—why is it not true of combs of any size, even down to  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ ? And if these sections can be sold for only two cents less than the best, they are still very profitable, if even a fourth more honey can be produced in them. I confess that I have been quite puzzled to reconcile these apparently contradictory statements and opinions. Without

being at all sure of my ground, I may be allowed to give a possible explanation. Remember that many, like friend J. A. Green, have held the view that a section used by the bees last year will not be filled as soon as one containing only foundation, and that it is not profitable to use such. One year I used a number of sections partly filled, left over from the previous year. I cannot now tell whether they were filled more or less promptly than the others, but they were filled and stored for some time with the others. Before very long I found these sections, which had been left over from the previous year, becoming watery, the honey oozing through the capping, while the sections built on foundation were all right. Now, in this case is it not probable that the honey left over in these sections was unripe to begin with and, after being kept over the winter, had soured at least a trifle? And is it unreasonable to suppose that the bees would be slower in filling such sections than in filling those furnished with foundation only? I remember, that at that same convention at Chicago great stress was laid upon the importance of having all vessels, used to contain extracted honey, very clean—the least remains of granulated honey being enough to spoil a lot of fresh honey. Now, is it not possible that those who have found unfinished sections so objectionable have used those containing some old honey, at least as much as the extractor would leave in them? The sections I used for bait are treated in this way:

Those containing much honey are extracted the previous fall, and all are cleaned out thoroughly by the bees, a pile of supers being left where the bees can rob them, the entrance, however, being *large enough for only a single bee*. I could not be induced, I think, to dispense with such bait, and I wish friend Green and others would try it and report.

Let me suggest how to settle pretty conclusively whether unfinished sections or foundation will be finished first. Take such bait sections as I have described, the last vestige of honey cleaned out of them by the bees—mind you, this must be done at a time when bees will rob, or they are not likely to clean the sections thoroughly—and put one in the middle of each super. Now, don't wait till the whole super is finished, but watch from time to time and see what is the first section finished. Another good way is this:

Fill a super alternately with sections of comb and foundation, then keep close watch and find the time when *all* the sections of one kind are finished, but not the others, and see which kind it is. Better not consider the outside row on each side, as local causes may affect them.—C. C. MILLER in Gleanings.