

started queen cells, which he denied were sealed. I am quite satisfied they are all first sealed before the new queen is allowed to destroy them, therefore, considering such an enormous loss in egg-laying, 10 or 12 days, and 25% loss of queens, I claim that my law "bosses" them all. If the queen is in laying condition, she is immediately accepted and she goes on laying, if not so, then she is stimulated by the bees, and in two days is in full lay.

Following the clue up, by giving queens at dark, and virgin ones running away at day time but staying at night, by "Pond's system," queens cells having started, I thought virgin queens might be accepted in normal stocks as soon as the old queens were removed, and, trying the experiment, I did not find it to be true, but I found if I allowed at least 24 hours between removing a laying queen and dropping in a virgin queen, (which, of course, must always be done at night), I was always successful. I am not sure that the plan will never fail, but still it is of such success, to open up quite a new practice in honey raising; viz.: say one works his stocks up to swarming condition with the old laying queen, then he removes her and gives a virgin in her place, or if he does not like the delay in egg-laying, then he can make up a nucleus alongside, and as soon as the young queen begins to lay and remove the old one and unite the young one. With a young queen of the current year, there is very little inclination to swarm, or rear drones, and there is no idling during a honey glut because they have the swarming fever on.

Now, Mr. Jones, I want you to try this law of mine. I give you my solemn word that it will never, NEVER fail, and if you can persuade the Canadian bee-keepers to try it, you will benefit them by many, very many dollars. Also they will be ready to accept a few more things I can give them.

You will find more particulars of the "law" in the pages of the *British Bee Journal* for 1886. In that for July 15th, page 318, I give eight ways of applying the law. Also the *Journal of Horticulture* for '85, '86 and '87, the oldest bee-paper in the English language.

The first opportunity bee-keepers will have of practising the law will be when looking over their stocks for the first time in the spring; some will be weak and have a queen all right, others will be strong, yet without a queen. Now, all that is necessary is to offer any stock that is suspected to be queenless, a queen—just drop her on the comb amongst the bees, say one from a weak lot—when if they are queenless, the bees will at once commence a peculiar hum, something like the swarming hum. I am not sure

that they do it for joy, but to communicate the fact that they have a queen to all their companions, for if a comb is held 12 or 18 inches above the hive, and the queen dropped on almost at one instant the bees on both sides will be seen to be vibrating their wings, *also those in the hive below*, and proving conclusively to me that bees have a language and that they can hear. If the bees really have a queen, they will at once "ball" the stranger. So here is a sure test as to whether the bees have a queen or not, and will save a lot of time in examinations, stocks or colonies. It is remarkable how you persist in calling stocks of bees, "colonies," dubbing every hive stronger than a nucleus such, and for what should be called a colony you have to employ a purely Latin word to describe it. In England, we describe hives of bees as follows: All those which have stood the winter are called "stocks," for the simple reason that they were kept for stock, not because they are "stuck" on a stool, as once contended in the *A.B.J.* The first swarm from a stock is called a "swarm," a second swarm, a "cast," a third swarm, a "colt," a swarm from a swarm is called a "virgin swarm" etc., and by these names a bee-keeper always refers to his bees. He will tell you how many stocks he has, how many swarms, how many casts, etc., and thus we instantly know his strength; also when he says he keeps 20 stocks we instantly know this is the number he wintered. At the end of the season he examines his "stocks"; if too light for wintering, he condemns them, then he examines his "casts," to see if any will do for stocks. If he still fails to make up his number of stocks he selects them from the swarms, and having done so, he calls all he has reserved to stand the winter "stocks" because they have to produce his future profits. All the others are "condemned," either for the sulphur pit or the driver, that is a man who makes a practice of going around "driving" the bees out of their hives.

Now, the word "colony" means a community that has not sufficient strength of itself to maintain its own existence, e.g., our own "colonies" and a queen-rearing nucleus, a number of colonies united may do so, viz.: the United States and a lot of queen nuclei united into one good stock. So when I speak of a colony of bees, I mean a few bees by themselves in a separate hive, while one that is capable of yielding a profit, I call a "stock," the proper English name.

A HALLAMSHIRE BEE-KEEPER.

Your letter is interesting, and we are sure will prove pleasant reading to all. That 6,000 lbs. of wax will never be realized on, at least that is the conclusion to which we have come. Daniel