

no matter which way the wind is blowing, for furnishing a current of pure air all the time. Now this clamp is covered over with earth two feet deep and remains that way until late in the spring when the earth is thrown back, the straw pulled away and the bees allowed to fly until fruit bloom. Cold and unfavorable weather does not affect bees down in this clamp as they are warmly packed all around excepting the front, and the sun shining down on the entrance to the hives makes it much warmer than it otherwise would be. Continuous breeding was carried on late in the spring in this clamp during the three weeks of unfavorable weather when all the bees setting upon the summer stands in the ordinary way ceased to breed, spring dwindling following very much. During that unfavorable weather we examined his bees several times, as he lives about six miles from Beeton, and found them brooding more rapidly than bees ordinarily would in the most favorable weather on summer stands. To examine them he takes hold of the front of a hive draws it forward out of its cosy straw nest, smokes the bees a little, and lifts out the comb. He showed us solid combs of brood that would delight the heart of any bee-keeper, and this at a time when our bees upon their summer stands, were many of them clustered as closely as they are in winter quarters, and had ceased brooding entirely. When there were cold chilly winds and unpleasant weather he just tumbled down the straw in front of the hives—pea straw and could easily be removed. This system may come into use largely in northern localities, especially where the bee-keeper does not wish to go to much expense, as the same clamp will do for years.

NORTH AMERICAN BEE-KEEPERS' SOCIETY, at Detroit, Mich., on December 8th, 9th and 10th, 1885. W. Z. Hutchinson, Sec., Rogersville Genesee Co., Mich.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SOME OBSERVATIONS—INTRODUCING QUEENS.

MR. D. A. JONES, who is good authority on all matters pertaining to bees, tells his readers that it is no trouble to introduce queens, either virgin or fertile, and yet facts show that there are serious losses going on account of failure when attempting to introduce queens.

If Brother Jones has discovered a "rule" of procedure that has no exceptions he will certainly confer a great favor on all bee-keepers, except a few experts whose skill and judgment is equal to any emergency that may arise in apiary work, by giving a minute description of his manner of proceeding when introducing queens both virgin and fertilized.

A. I. Root has frequently said that perhaps one-fourth of all the queens sold by him were lost when introducing. I have but little doubt of his conclusion if his customers follow strictly his "directions" sent out with each queen sold. My experience as a queen breeder warrants me in saying that about fifty per cent. of the queens sold are purchased by beginners and others who are not sufficiently advanced in the science to risk their judgment as to when a queen will be accepted or rejected by a colony of bees. Hence when such persons are "directed" how to proceed, a plain strict rule must be laid down for them to follow till they gain sufficient knowledge of the business, and possess that confidence in themselves that only true knowledge can inspire.

When speaking of a "rule" as to when a queenless colony of bees in a normal condition will accept a queen, we may say that they will sometimes accept her by direct introduction, and more frequently after making her acquaintance twenty-four hours, and with more certainty after forty-eight hours. Now, if we follow up the experiment we will find that we may safely fix the "rule" at seventy-two hours. I claim that by blindly following this rule a mere novice should never fail. It will be seen that no rule as to *time*, suitable to the inexperienced, can be carried out by the popular plan of caging the queen on a comb. This method gives the matter too much into the hands of the bees, as they may release and destroy the queen. For this reason, and for the further reason that it is less labor, I use a cage suitable for placing on top of the frame right over the cluster of bees. My cage is so arranged that when the stopple is removed the bees while appropriating the soft candy with which the cage is provisioned, will release the queen under the most favorable circumstances.

Practical apianists tell us that seventy-two