

several days (provided they have no sealed cells), nor whether the queen to be introduced came by mail or was taken from a neighboring colony. Nor does it make much difference whether or not the honey flow is good or bad. The new queen is caged alone in any convenient receptacle and kept warm for twenty or thirty minutes. Then a few puffs of smoke blown well into the entrance of the hive, and a few more puffs over the frames when the cover is removed, and the queen is allowed to run down on the combs and it is done. I often pick out a comb and let the queen out onto it, watching her ask first one bee and then another for food until one is found who will give the desired luncheon. I never hesitate to look into such a colony at any time thereafter, and I have yet to lose a queen so introduced. Several times recently, when hurried, I have kept the queens "in solitary" but ten minutes, and yet was successful. I put in virgins in the same way and with equal success. For smoke I generally use pine planer-shavings, sometimes tobacco. I can see no difference in results, and under some circumstances I am equally successful where no smoke at all is used.

In connection with honey crop reports, we have received the following from Mr. J. K. Darling, Almonte, not intended for publication as a whole, but as it contains some very good things along the line of handling swarms which will be read with interest, we are taking the liberty of using it. Sorry we do not hear from friend Darling more often:

A very light crop of clover honey, quality No. 1. No basswood, very little bloom on the trees this year, resulting from excessive blooming last

year or hard late frosts this spring, or both; no thistle, and, just in this locality, there will be very little buckwheat or other fall honey. Bees were very strong 1st of May and built up finely for a time but it was so cold and dry later in May, and cold and wet in June that for several weeks before swarming they made very little improvement. Clover was a fairly good crop and some heads bloomed in May, but it was near the last of June before it was anything like full bloom, and then it was so wet and cold the bees could do nothing. My first swarm issued the 25th of June; had three that day and three on 28th; that was all for June. About 1st July honey was coming in, and then such swarming! It was terrible, as many as five being in the air at one time. I tell you they made us dance for a short time. Increased 85 per cent. in spite of returning everything I could and allowing others to double up. Colonies very strong now and some of my big hives (3200 cubic inches) are full of honey but only some; most of the hives have not been full this season. Clover is blooming some yet and I think that as the farmers are taking to sowing more alsike clover in prospect of a crop of clover honey will be much enhanced, as often the white clover yields very little honey although there is abundance of bloom. My bees worked well on some small patches of alsike that was in bloom last fall, and if we could manage to have our neighbors take a second crop of alsike off their fields it would be a bonanza to our bees. Can we accomplish it?

I would like to say a word regarding the returning of swarms to prevent increase. In C. P. Dadant's article in the American Bee Journal, copied in the Canadian Bee Journal for July, he appears to think that

return will be better. The way the queen again they have no good they would swarm the first to be more, a queen might be the ne send c tried r out out most an over tur The fe as neve second ary' I virgin qt seco: colony), parent co very con all and l: issui are, re- der, clos arm ba they go at season: ke sure I migl which is o because be roa are turne ens loos yet hount, bu that the intact,'