

these hives and any prominent supply dealer has goods to fit this hive. For that reason, if no other, I would recommend that hive. A good smoker, bee veil, and at least one empty hive for every colony purchased. If for comb honey, about 100 sections, one pound of light section foundation and one pound of medium brood foundation should be purchased for every colony. If extracted honey is to be taken, sections and section foundation should be replaced by one pound of medium brood foundation. No one can afford to do without comb foundation, it saves the bees time, it saves material and does away with objectionable drone comb.

HANDLING BEES.

It is of course impossible to give details as to the different kinds of work, but a few hints as to the best method of handling bees may be of advantage. Bees should never be handled when the weather is cool enough to prevent flying of the bees. They handle best when working freely and are always cross after a honey flow has given out. A colony when queenless is more liable to be cross than when in a normal condition. The species and family has much to do with the temperament, the Italian and partially Italian being more gentle than the Black or German. A good smoker should be used, one that can be depended upon in an emergency. Almost anything which will give a large volume of smoke, not too offensive, dry and lasting, will answer. Dozy hard maple, cedar bark and light material answers well. The operator should have clothing free from fuzz, no woollen should be used, sleeves should fit tightly above the wrist as also the clothing at the ankles and knees. A broad brim straw hat should be used and a veil gives confidence to the operator. As the bees are liable to catch in the hair on the hand and then sting, such superfluous adornments should be singled from the hand.

The operator now walks smoker in hand to the hive, with the disengaged hand he removes the cover, this must be done gently, to jar the hive will result in an angry out-pour of the bees either at the entrance or at the top. The free hand should now remove a corner of the quilt and as the bees and frames become exposed, blow, not a dense volume of smoke, but enough to prevent the bees from flying up, and to induce them to rush to their stores and fill themselves with honey. This is the object of smoking the bees, not to stupefy them or kill them, but to handle them when they are filling themselves with the stores of which they may be deprived. After loading themselves with honey the bees can be handled with comparative ease, the same filling process takes place before the bees swarm and this is the reason why, unless the cluster has been hanging over night, the swarm can generally be handled without discomfort. While the bees are filling themselves with honey, the operator does his work, being, however, careful not to crush the bees. If a bee should be crushed or she should sting, smoke should be used to neutralize the order as the latter would excite other bees to attack. Accurately made and well constructed hives are essential to comfort and success to bee-keeping.

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT.

In closing, permit me to say that, to succeed in bee keeping, work must be done promptly and thoroughly. Keep colony strong, prevent excessive swarming by giving room in hive, shade and ventilate the hive, extract honey when ripe, not when thin and unfit for market. Use comb foundation, and keep down drones, produce a good clean comb honey, or only extracted. Do not allow bees during the honey flow to remain idle for lack of room, your whole year's profits may be lost in a few days in that way. Leave the bees plenty of good stores for winter. To put bees in proper condition for winter and bring them through about as strong as they went in, goes a long way towards successful bee-keeping. Weak colonies that require the greater part of the summer to build up, seldom yield a crop. Market as early as you can, secure a fair price, have and preserve a reputation of cleanliness, and do not attempt to wholesale and retail at the same price, but however tempting it may appear for the moment, allow, between the wholesale and retail price, a fair living and business profit.

Yours respectfully,

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, April 11th, 1896.