

and let a little blow over them and they will go down out of the way, fix the frames, put on the quilt and shake the bees out of the cover in front and they will go in. I saw him afterwards and he had succeeded well. If I had given him the smoker and let him go at it his own way most likely he would have had them all out of order, chased them down one place when they would have boiled up another and would have had a general stampede and wherever he wanted to take hold bees would be there.

I use very little smoke, no more than to keep them out of the way of my fingers. In extracting time a great many of the bees in the hive are already full for the manufacture of wax for sealing purposes. I drive them down lift out the comb and shake the bees off in front of the hive, sometimes I have the rest of the bees on the comb to fill with honey, and go on taking all the combs out that I want, and by the time I am through, the few remaining ones will shake or brush off easily. It is necessary, after giving the bulk a shake off to at once withdraw the comb back, thus preventing many from alighting on it as they fly up. I like to have spare combs to put in the place of those removed, and in a few minutes a person would not know that they had been molested. I endeavor to so handle them that they are the least disturbed possible. While I am working with them the field bees come out of the top and go off for their load.

There are special occasions when a good deal of smoke is required, as the taking off of comb honey or driving, but in the general work you do not want to get the bees racing down one side and up the other and over the frames—but rather to work steadily and carefully, and let the bees as much as possible do the same.

THOS. STOKES.

Minesing, July 3rd, 1890.

Thank you Friend Stokes for the valuable hints in your article. No doubt many people smoke bees more than is necessary causing the bees to fill themselves with honey, and loaf in the hives for a long time. In the height of the honey season very little smoke indeed is required, because, as you say, most of them are either in the fields or filled with honey in the hives emptying it. Those not filled soon leave for the field in another lot, and just a slight puff of smoke on the top of the frames to cause those remaining in the hives, that are old enough to fill themselves with honey to do so, is all that is

necessary. Instead of blowing the smoke directly down between the frames, to merely cause them to run down is all that is necessary, but when no honey is coming in and especially when bees are killing off the drones sometimes if they will hold the smoker in the top the queen becomes frightened and runs down on to the bottom board when the bees seeing her excited condition catch and ball her. This can be prevented by blowing smoke in the entrance first then a little on top after they have all become alarmed from the smoke in the entrance.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Fairness in Discussion.

“A Hallamshire Beekeeper” is the first one that ever accused me of unfairness in discussion, and I am perfectly willing that the readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL shall judge as to who has been “doubting” and who has been “pinned.” He first was amused because I didn’t know (?) that the temperature of the brood nest was 95° instead of 65°. I explained that the temperature *was* 65° in winter and early spring (the time we had under discussion) when he slips out, “doubting” by saying that a brood nest *isn’t* a brood nest unless it contains brood. Now he has the coolness to say he had no idea he was fighting on a “correct nomenclature” footing; and this is the manner in which he has conducted his part of the discussion all the way through. I do like a discussion with an opponent who meets the question squarely, and whose desire to arrive at the truth is greater than that of putting his adversary in an unfavorable light by the employment of some quibble.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Flint, Mich., June 25, 1890.

Delighted With the Journal.

“RWIN L. Brown,—I keep bees on a small scale. Wintered six colonies, put them out on April 2nd, they have done well, although we have had a rather poor season so far; much cold wet weather. I have had four swarms to date. Will take most of my surplus honey in sections. Bees are bringing in honey fast the last few days, taken mostly from alsike and white clover. I am always delighted with the BEE JOURNAL and eagerly devour its contents. I send you a list of all the beekeepers in Darlington township. Hampton, June 24, 1890.