

## QUEEN INTRODUCING.

### How to Do it Successfully With But One Operation.

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To my dear brothers in bee culture. As I have been solicited to write an article for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, I will give you a little of my experience and best method of introducing queen bees to full swarms or nuclei. I have just been looking over about 100 swarms where I introduced the queens a short time before, and not one queen lost. This is rather good luck. But before I go further I want to stop and emphasize the word *STORE CANDY* in large letters as the common stick candy is a *very*, *very* important thing to have to use with the Spiral wire queen cage to introduce queen bees. The hardest kind of candy you would hardly think the bees could eat it out of a cage as soon as they do, but it is sure to be eaten out. Suppose now I have 25 young laying queens in nuclei that I wish to introduce to swarms in an apiary away from home, I would take 25 of West's Spiral wire queen cages with the feeders filled with queen food (made of sugar and honey) next find the 25 queens in the nuclei and place one queen in each of the 25 cages, and then close the cages with their tin slide covers, fold a small piece of writing paper over the cover before shipping it, in the coils of the cage and number the cages on this paper, if you wish to keep track of the strain of bees your queens were reared from, etc.

Now I have a small tool box about 10x14 inches and 5 inches deep, made light with a leather handle to carry it by, and inside of this box I have a shelf for holding queen cages, and this shelf has 30 holes bored with a plump size  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch bit, and each hole has a number marked close by it. this is to help keep track of the queens, etc.

Now say I have the 25 queens all caged, then I place one cage with enclosed queen in each of 25 of the holes in the shelf of the box, the cages stand perpendicular and a little over half their length down through the holes and rest on the bottom of the box, handy to pick out with my fingers.

Next, and most important part is (and I think it is original with me) have 25 pieces very hard store candy cut from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and 25 No 3 wire nails put in this box too. (These pieces of candy should be the right size to slip loosely in the large end of the cages.) The box should be

covered up and not exposed to extreme heat or cold. There are bees needed with the caged queen. Two hours later, say, I am in the yard away from home with these 25 caged queens. I then set the box of queens down on the top of some hive or convenient place, and prepare for business, put on a bee veil, get a good fire in a Bingham smoker and get it going well, being filled with seasoned hard maple wood. I also have a hive with a sheet of queen excluding zinc nailed on the bottom, and four legs so arranged that the hive will stand on its legs eight inches from the ground if the hive is right side up or bottom up either. This hive is to help in finding queens when needed.

All being ready I proceed to the first swarm I wish to open. Lift off the cover or sections carefully, use just enough smoke to keep the bees from rushing to the top of the hive and to prevent flying out to sting, then lift the frames carefully one at a time and look for the queen. I place the hive with legs and queen excluder in front of the hive I am working with, and hang the combs in this hive until the queen is found, then remove the condemned queen and take one of the young caged queens out of the box, remove the tin cover from the cage and place one of these pieces of hard store candy  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long in the large end of the cage, place a wire nail No. 3 below the candy so the candy will not slip down on the queen when the bees eat the candy part-away so the candy becomes small. Then hang the cage with inclosed queen on one side of one of the combs so that it will be out of the way between two combs in the hive when closed. Proceed until all the queens are introduced. The bees will eat this candy out *every time*. It takes at least 48 hours for a piece of hard candy  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long to be eaten out, a shorter piece may be used and the queen released sooner. The bees eat this candy from the sides of the cage and when the candy is eaten small enough the bees at the end of the candy will get in the cage with the queen before she gets out of the cage, the candy then acting as a queen excluder for a short time. The bees that get in the cage never hurt the queen even if they get in quite soon, and when the queen walks out she is at home and soon laying eggs near the cage. The hive should not be opened in a week after introducing to be safe, as many queens get killed by opening the hive too soon after the queen is liberated from the cage.

I did not expect to write as much as I have when I began. For I could have said it all in a nut shell to those who have experience in the culture, as below. (To introduce a queen to stranger bees, first remove