

ascendency, as Poland China hogs have now the ascendency over other breeds of swine.

I believe it to be easier to fix and maintain a standard or standards for bees on exhibition, simply because more imperatively needed. Even if necessary to settle upon one for that purpose, that might not be the most correct, still it should be done. To be sure, as compared with the dollar and cent side of the matter, the question as to what type of bee gets the premiums at fairs is of small moment. If the fancy dressed bees must carry off the honors, and the dull coated ones make the money, the fancy ones with their honors must go to the wall. Beauty must give way to utility in business. But the exhibition of bees at fairs is no unimportant item. We should keep our industry before the public in every practicable way—to advertise our business and educate the people, and to exhibit at fairs, is among the best ways to do this. For this purpose we should have more clearly defined criteria of judgment in all departments than we have at present. For judging bees at fairs either schedule of points given above is worth about zero, for very obvious reasons. It is an easy matter to pass upon Clydesdale horses. They are a heavy draught breed; bone and muscle are everything, with the immense mane, tail and fetlocks, as incidentals that have grown up with the breed in its northern clime, but usually accompany the main points. But we cannot judge of thrift, prolificness, etc., with bees confined in a glass cage. In this case, if in no other, color is the leading factor. Are the markings of the bees, as the markings of the Clydesdale, the incidental concomitants of points of actual merit? I believe the majority of beekeepers who have thought upon the matter at all think they are. But what type or strain possesses the points of excellence in the largest degree? That is the rub. In a draft of a code of rules, etc., for judging apiarian exhibits at fairs which I prepared and had published in the *American Bee Journal* of February 25th last, in order to get the views of others, I, with some hesitation, prescribed this: "Three-banded bees should be given the preference over four or five-banded, and the darker over the lighter colored."

I explained that I asserted that standard because the prevailing verdict was in favor of the darker colored Italians as bees for business. I hesitated because I knew that some at least would not agree to that. I incline to think that the darker colored will make us more honey and money than the golden Italians, and I believe that, outside of the breeders of light-color-

ed bees, a majority of connoisseurs think so. But quite a number dissented from the standard I had set up. Some decidedly favored the yellow types, while others proposed the adoption of two standards. The proposition looks plausible, but it would be difficult even then to settle upon an exact standard for each class, for there are as many different shades of opinion as there are shades of bees. To suit all, we would have to divide them up about as follow:—

Golden three-banded Italian Bees.

Leather-colored	"	"
Golden four-banded	"	"
Leather-colored	"	"
Golden five-banded	"	"
Leather-colored	"	"

Making six different strains of Italians, to say nothing of Albinos. It all begins to look funny. But when we reflect that we have four breeds of dark-faced sheep, all derived from one original stock, five varieties of Leghorn fowls and about one hundred and fifty of fowls all told; and when we remember that the lower we descend in the scale of animal existence, the more numerous are the variations, it is not wild to venture that we may sometime, not many years hence, have that many or more distinct breeds of Italian bees. But we will hardly anticipate the results by arbitrary distinctions now. Suppose we venture to recognize the two classes. Now then, the best we can do, I think, will be about as follows:—Let those two classes be shown as the dark and the yellow Italians respectively.

We should then have the dark Italians, which must show three distinct yellow bands; and the yellow Italians, which must show four or more distinct yellow bands; and allow entire liberty in judging of the particular shade of yellow. The following schedule of points could be used for either class:—

Size of bee.....	30
Color and markings.....	30
Brood and queen, each.....	10
Quietness.....	5
Style of comb.....	5
Style of hive.....	10

There should be a fair quantity of brood in all stages, or as near as possible. By style of comb is meant straightness, smoothness of surface, etc.; by style of hive, neatness of construction, finish, etc.

This schedule prepared for bees on exhibition comes about as nearly a correct one for breeding purposes, I think, as one could be made.

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