

August in the Bee Yard

AUGUST marks the low point of summer. By the first, all of the summer flowers are out of bloom and the fall flowers will not open until the latter part of the month. A few hardy plants give enough nectar to keep the bees at work, while cotton and cowpeas in certain localities give some surplus. As the heavy honey flow of spring decreased, the egg laying was reduced until now there is very little brood in the hive. It is a resting period between the two brood-rearing periods.

This is a good time to requeen, as the good young queen will insure you a strong stand for wintering and a strong colony in the fall is the bee-keeper's best insurance for the next year's crop. It is a common observation that a colony requeened in the fall is not likely to swarm the next spring. If requeening is done early in August the young queen will have a strong colony to gather the fall honey flow, especially as it is heavy but of short duration.

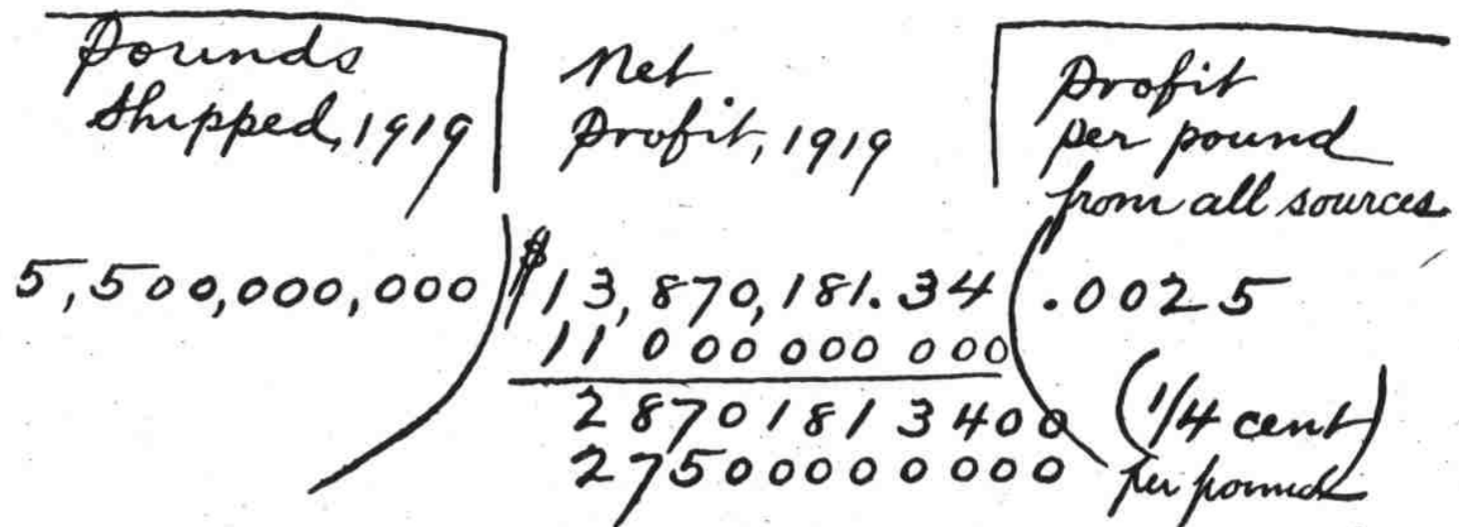
To requeen a hive is to give it either a new queen from another hive or eggs or queen cells and allow the bees to raise one themselves. Of the many ways of requeening the two following are simple and easy to carry out. If you desire to improve your stock of bees, purchase a queen from some queen breeder. The advertisements of these men can be found in all the bee papers. You will receive the queen by mail. She will be in a wooden and wire cage. As soon as possible after her arrival she should be placed in the hive. To do this smoke the hive well, remove the old queen, shove the top bars of the brood chamber apart until the queen cage will enter. One end of the queen cage has a piece of cardboard tacked over a sugar filled hole. Remove this card and place the cage, this end down, between the frames. Now press one edge of the cage against a brood comb and hold it in place by pressing the other brood frame against the other edge. In this way the cage is held within the brood nest. Return to the hive in 24 hours and if the queen is not out yet, loosen the sugar candy with a knife.

A very easy method for the man with a few stands of bees, is to select the colony that is a good honey producer and is easily handled. Take out a frame containing eggs, remove all the bees from the comb. Go to the hive to be requeened and after killing the queen remove a frame of brood, brushing off the bees, and substitute the frames removed. Mark the introduced frame. Two or three times between the seventh and fifteenth day after, look through the hive and destroy all queen cells except on the frame put in. It is next to impossible and almost useless to requeen a hive in which the frames are not movable.

The best protection against moth is a young vigorous queen. Such a queen gives you plenty of bees and they take care of the moth. In case you find moths in a hive the chances are that it is queenless. Do not try to requeen, but unite this colony with a strong one. Any colony having laying workers should not be requeened but likewise united with a good colony.

Early some morning visit your cowpea field. If the bees are not there ahead of you there is a big honey flow on from some other plant. Like cotton, the cowpea secretes nectar at various places outside the flowers and is one of the plants it pays to raise as its honey production is a great addition to the regular crop.

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