

Smoke and Proper Manipulation Better Than Bee-Escapes for Removing Combs.

S. T. Pettit.

Removing filled combs from supers for extracting and replacing therein empty combs is looked upon by many as being a slow trying job and fraught with danger from many stings. And indeed, from the way many go at the work, it is that part of beekeeping to be dreaded. No wonder at all that many resort to the bee-escape for help.

The practice of brushing each comb clean as taken out is so slow that the bees get more or less demoralized before the super is more than one-half clear of combs and a large amount of smoke is often necessary in order to go on with the work. And then the bees will often boil over the side of the super and besides that brushing when first lifted out will cause them to sting: then they get another dose of smoke. Now, all this is hard on both the operator and the bees. That is the way I did it years ago, but a happy thought came over me that there must be a better way, quicker way; one that could be performed without danger of stings and altogether better for the poor bees, and the very first trial proved a perfect success.

This is the way I do it now: first give a couple of smart whiffs of smoke in the entrance, then blow smoke smartly under the quilt and the bees will rush downwards, then remove the quilt or cloth and for a moment rush the bees down with smoke; now is your opportunity, lift the combs out quickly and shake off what bees you can quickly and lean the combs against the back part of the hive or any other convenient thing, or place them in a light box for the purpose. Now, keep on a hustle and as soon as the last card is out, drop in and adjust your empty combs and close up the hive. Now, see, all this must be done before the reaction or return of the bees sets in and your bees are still in good humor and their zeal for gathering honey is not decreased by the presence of those empty combs and everything is lovely.

The process of brushing the remaining bees from the combs will be found pleasant and easy for by this time they feel lost and lonely and they are in no mood for self defence. I had rather remove the filled combs and replace them with empty ones than adjust and remove a bee-escape. And then, I fancy that the bees being crowded into the brood chamber and the consequent excite-

ment caused by the bee-escape would work up swarming fever.

Belmont, Ont., June 15th, 1895.

P. S.—I go right on with this work in the robbing season. I place a robber cloth over the comb box and just when commencing operations I fill said box with smoke, this keeps the robbers at bay. At such seasons I have an assistant to keep the air over and about the hive pretty full of smoke.

S. T. P.

Patent Granted.

Dummy comb for bee-hives, Lewis A. Aspinwall, filed July 23rd, 1894.

Claim.—1. As a new article of manufacture, a dummy comb for bee-hives, composed of a layer of wood or other material with holes passing through and through the same of a size adapted to receive the bees and furnish standing room, substantially as set forth.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a dummy comb for bee-hives, composed of a layer of wood or other material with holes passing through and through the same of a size adapted to receive the bees and furnish standing room, and having a supporting frame, there being spaces between the frame and the dummy comb for the passage of the queen, workers and drones, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination in a bee-hive with the frames for the ordinary combs of dummy combs introduced between the ordinary combs and having openings through them to give standing room for the bees without affording facility for the formation of comb or the deposit of honey and to lessen the risk of swarming, substantially as specified.

The North American Bee-Keepers' Convention at Toronto.

The date for holding the North American Convention in Toronto has now been decided upon, viz., Sept. 4th, 5th, and 6th, the first session being on the evening of the 4th. A place for holding the meetings, the auditorium of the Normal school, has been secured, the officers are now at work securing reduced rates on the railroads and preparing a programme, and would be especially pleased to receive suggestions in regard to subjects that ought to be discussed. Don't keep still now and then complain afterwards that the programme was not what it ought to be. Send your suggestions to the secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint Mich.