

prefer having the bees swarm in the old way as the labor of lifting a heavy set of supers from one hive to the other so frequently would be worse than looking after the swarms.

I hope we may have a perfect Non-Swarming System before long but am afraid we are a long way from it yet.

I think the self-hiver is more promising but it has the great drawback; the swarms uniting when two or more are in the air at once and almost all going into one hive.

A. G. WILLOWS.

Carlingford, Nov. 17th 1893.

We see things much as we look at them.

(Written for the Canadian Bee Journal.)

MR. EDITOR.

When I met you for the first time, at the great International Bee-Keepers Convention at Chicago last month, I told you that I would write some articles for your paper. It may seem a little singular that it is so—but since meeting you for so short a time, I seem to know you much better than even the fruitful things of your pen had taught me in the years of the past. I regretted that I had to sacrifice the pleasure of taking part in the great convention of Bee-Keepers on that occasion. But I was in the great City of the West, to see the World's Fair and on that occasion I owed more to my friends that were not interested in Bees, than I could owe to my own inclination. Nevertheless I was present at several important sittings of that great body of intelligent Bee-men and women.

But the saying that great men are not always wise, is as true with Bee-men as with other great people. For example, where does a mere *unrepresentative* body of Bee-Keepers get the power and authority, to fix rules by which the honey produced in this vast Country, shall be graded, into just so many grades. Then again where do these experts in the honey business, get the idea that "wood" and propolis, and straight and crooked Combs has anything to do with the "quality" of honey. Honey in a crooked comb, of the same quality, is not made better by being stored in a straight comb. There is a wide difference in the quality of honeys even when produced in the same locality, but the "wood," and the "combs," and bee-glue do not enter into the causes that make the difference.

Nature grades our honey, and the Bee-Keeper who put it in good shape for market, will get his reward. It is to the interest of honey producers to educate the palates of consumers rather than their eyes.

While I am careful to have my section boxes nicely cleaned of bee-glue, in fact nicer than any I saw on exhibition at the World's Fair, I say here that the marks of propolis on the Sections is rather an advantage than otherwise, because our finely prepared Section honey, has an artificial look to the uneducated consumer, and the marks of "bee-glue" modifies some what the artificiality. That veteran apiarist and honey dealer, Chas. F. Muth of Cincinnati, O., stated at the Convention, that this matter grading of honey, "is of little importance." And so I say, and further, it is a matter of greater importance to let it alone.

BEE LEGISLATION.

I am firmly fixed in the opinion that it is dangerous to the best interest of Bee-Keepers to push our infant industry into the Legislation Halls, or to force it upon public notice faster than the public is educated to receive it.

THE SIZE OF BEE HIVES.

It is ludicrous to hear an *International Convention* discuss the proper size of the brood nest of the hive, as though the little patch of blue sky that covers each smoker's locality, represents the whole world.

It reminded me of an old gentleman I have heard of, who took his first trip away from his home, by Railway, a distance of forty miles. When he returned, he was asked how he liked his trip and the Country. He replied that he liked it first rate, but it occurred to him that if the world was as big the other way, as it was in *that direction*, it was a "whopper."

This world is rather large for any one man to settle the question as to the best size of the Bee-hive. Climate and locality, must be consulted when deciding the question of proper size of hive. It is an unprofitable experiment to adopt a small hive in a Climate where the Seasons are long and hot. Each honey producer must decide these matters intelligently as there may be a continuous leak in his annual profits.

BEE'S ENTERING THE SURPLUS CASES.

Must be a matter that is effected by climate, or some other undiscovered cause, or causes. I handle an apiary of from 50 to 100 colonies of bees, and in all my experience I have never seen a colony of bees in normal condition of any race that failed to enter the surplus cases and store honey if the flowers were yielding nectar in sufficient quantity to furnish a surplus.

No complaint is so often made through our Bee periodicals, as that, that the bees "refuse to enter the surplus cases." And we are constantly told that certain races of bees enter the surplus department more