

combs than can one quart if the combs are placed very close together. It is easily understood that when the combs are close together, one row of bees along the bottom generates heat, while, spread apart, it would require a cluster inside of the single row to fill all the space between the combs. Should the cells be lengthened out and honey capped over the brood preventing the crowding of them together, they must be shaved off to allow the combs to go together, but it is not necessary to cut these off as short as the brood cells, because it is just as well to allow the combs to press tightly together at the top, to assist in retaining the heat. If there were more combs than the bees covered or than contained brood, it would not be necessary to shave the top off the cells in order to crowd them up any faster than the bees require them for brooding purposes, so that each weak and extra comb would be shaved off the cappings, crowding it up to enable the bees to extend through brood nest, and the uncapping of honey, would stimulate them to greater exertion. Those who have practiced this crowding of bees in the spring can never be induced to go back to the old system. In our opinion brood combs are kept too far apart to secure the best results unless they are spread to get more room for extracted honey.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

AN UNRIGHTEOUS LAW.

 N May 16th I mailed a queen to Martin Emigh, Holbrook, Ont., affixing 10 cents in postage stamps, as I had done on hundreds of packages (of green plants and potatoes) of 8 oz. and under during the past six years, all of which except this were forwarded as safely as such would have been in the U. S. Imagine my surprise then when upon going to the post office May 20th, I found my queen returned by the P. M. at Suspension Bridge, N.Y., with "Unmailable to Canada" written on the package. Knowing that this P. M. had the law on his side, but wondering why at this late date he should now try to enforce a law *custom* had long considered dead I wrote him as follows:

BORODINO, N.Y., May 21st, 1886.

Post Master at Suspension Bridge, N.Y.

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed tag you will doubtless recognise as one attached to a little box containing a queen bee and her attendants which you returned to our P. M., as unmailable matter to Canada. I am aware that the postal regulations say that you are right, but to help advance a growing industry both in Canada and the U. S., post masters of the past have allowed queens to pass to and from Canada as samples of merchandise (which they really are), much to the advantage of all concerned. I have sent during the past five years hundreds of queens to Canada, all of which have gone safely, since I wrote

"queen bee for the improvement of stock" on the tag. Now, will you not please do as former post masters have done and help advance our industry? By so doing you will only be *following a custom of the past* and receive the heartfelt thanks of bee-keepers in all parts of the U. S. and Canada. Please reply, telling me what I may expect, as I have orders for a score or more of queens from Canada.

Very truly yours,

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

To which he replies thus:

SUSPENSION BRIDGE, N.Y., May 25th, '86.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter at hand this a.m. Post masters who have allowed bees to pass into Canada by mail have not understood the rulings of the P. O. Department. By reading note 4 on page 770 in the January guide, 1886, and also note 20 on page 753 same guide, you will see that merchandise is not mailable to Canada. I send to the post master the letter which I have from the department on the bee question. Please call at the post office and see this letter. You can then write to the department and ask them to remedy the matter. We cannot allow them to pass through the mail.

Respectfully, etc.,

WM. CARR, P. M.

Upon calling at the post office I found the following: You will note that the Suspension Bridge postmaster had wrote the Superintendent Foreign Mails previous to receiving my queen.

Post Office Department, Office of Foreign Mails, Washington, D.C., May 6th, 1886.

SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 4th inst., inquiring as to the rate of postage applicable to bees addressed to Canada, I have to inform you that the transmission of articles of merchandise by mail between the United States and Canada is limited by the postal arrangement in force between the two countries to *bonafide trade patterns or samples* (specimens) not exceeding 8 oz. in weight, and that articles of merchandise such as queen bees, sent for sale, in execution of an order, or as gifts, are not bonafide samples and are not transmissible by mail from one country to another. In this connection see Note 4 of Foreign postage table, on page 770, and paragraphs 20 and 21 on page 753 of the United States Official Postal Guide for January, 1886.

I am, etc.,

NICHOLAS M. BELL.

Superintendent Foreign Mail.

To Post Master at Suspension Bridge, N.Y.

As friend Emigh was anxious for his queen I made a cage to slip inside of an ordinary envelope, put in the queen and eight bees, sealed it securely and registered it via Buffalo. In a few days I got word from friend E. that the queen was there in safety. How about ventilation of queen cages? This queen and eight bees went all right though sealed up under two envelopes, as every registered letter is sent in a heavy registered envelope. I once sent a queen to Texas,