

before us is about seven inches square, x three sixteenth of an inch thick, a little strip of wood is tacked on all around the edge. The following is what Mr. Mitchell says about it:—Now, an old ten pound tin, that would be no use for holding or shipping honey, could be used for this purpose, as long as it was air tight. I think we will call this, "the Mitchell two-cent feeder."

Frank Benton.

FRANK Benton, who has for years been in Europe, and made a trip to Asia and "the Islands of the Seas" to find new races of bees, is now in Washington, D. C. He is engaged by the Government in the Apiarian Section, Division of Entomology, Department of Agriculture. He is well qualified for the position. The Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times says:

Dr. C. V. Riley, United States Entomologist, has signified a desire to send Prof. Benton, next year, to India on a mission to investigate *Apis dorsata*, a species of bees of that country. No one else is so well fitted as he for the satisfactory discharged of such a mission.

Last spring he returned with his family from a residence in the Old World of eleven years, the whole of which time he devoted to the study and exportation of bees. He established apiaries, and lived for one or more years in each of the following places: Island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean sea, Beyont, Syria, where his apiary was on Mt. Lebanon; Munich, Germany; Laibach and Krainburg, Province of Carniola, Austria; he also traveled very extensively, establishing an apiary on a French estate in Tunis, North Africa, and even penetrating, in the interest of apiculture, the jungles of India, where he contracted "jungle fever."

In addition to his special work he has been an ardent linguist, and speaks fluently German, French, Italian, modern Greek, and so on. At one time he was studying ten different languages.

Dr. Riley intends to put Prof. Benton in charge of the whole matter of an exhibit in apiculture at the World's Fair. This is a fitting recognition of his ability and he can be depended on to make the most of the display. He is well known to some of our citizens, having lived for some time in Knoxville, Tenn., where he was instructor in apiculture in the University of Tennessee.—American Bee Journal.

We gladly give place to the above, and congratulate Dr. Riley on his selection. We know of no person more capable to perform this work than Mr. Benton, and although small in stature, is large in hopes, and his determination to succeed, will make up for any physical want. There is probably no person living who has had so much experience in shipping bees, as Mr. Benton has, and we hope the department at Washington will intrust him with the enterprise, and that he will not be stinted as to means to carry on the work successfully.

Flour For Uniting Bees.

ONE of our British Bee friends speaks strongly in favor of flour for uniting bees, and says as follows:—

I put three swarms into one hive with ten standard frames: the first one on the 10th of June the second on the 26th, and the 3rd on the 28th June—all swarms from small straw skeps. The surplus was taken off the first week of August—thirty well-filled one-pound sections, and about eight pounds extracted from those not quite finished. This is my first experience of flour, and I am delighted with it.—South Down.

Now why is flour good to unite bees? There is no particular odor about it, and yet there must be some cause for it quieting them. We have stopped bees from robbing by throwing flour on them. They become messed, as it usually fills up the space between the hair on the thorax, and we presume, causes the bees to have a disagreeable feeling. We consider water more effective and much better, especially if scented a little. By taking the water in the mouth, after a little practice, it can be blown out in a fine spray on the bees. Once they are moistened they will not fight, but should the flour get moistened it becomes a dough on the bees, and is liable to shorten their days, as anything that tends to irritate and disturb them has a greater tendency to shorten their days, than ordinary labor, which is a pleasure to them. Water is more easily obtained, and cheaper than flour; more effective when properly applied; very much less injurious, as it soon dries up, whereas the flour will remain on them for days.