

Paraffine Paper for Sections Defended.

BY F. DANZENBAKER.

(Gleanings in Bee Culture.)

Mr. Root.—I notice the article of Mr. F. L. Thompson, page 734, from the A. B. J., page 677, relating to paraffine paper for covering sections, etc., in which the writer shows to his satisfaction that he has not succeeded with it as well as he ought to or might have done, and decides he can get along without it. So far, well enough. Experience proves that bees daub and plaster propolis over enamelled sheets, burlap, etc., and cut through them at their option. Any of these things cost in the first place. While bees at the close of the season may paste propolis at the juncture of the paper with the sections, to prevent wax-moths or worms from secreting themselves under the paper on the top of the sections, they do not paste on its surface between the sections as they do with the other fixings.

It was the comparative freedom from propolis, when properly applied, that has proved its value here on my own hives, which, as there are no rabbits or open spaces which require much gluing, may make some difference, for I have seen L. hives covered with enamelled sheets, with tin rabbits stuck even full of propolis.

To-day I examined here my last supers taken off, and there was simply a line of pure wax at the juncture of the paper and edge of the sections. It could all be wiped off the entire super of sections with a piece of section, when they were ready to pack in cases, and the same set of mats had been used during April and May in North Carolina, then two weeks in Washington, and six weeks in Virginia. Many of them had been taken off and used seven and eight times, and are good yet. Heavier, tougher paper, like flour sacks, double-coated, might be as strong and tough as enamel sheets, at one-third the cost.

But in using the lighter paper, single coated, at two cents, it is intended to use it but once or twice, so that it may be as well to tear it off and use clean sheets to clean it of when time is more valuable, as we use new sections rather than clean up the old. However, I think it is nearer correct to say that the sections are *practically* free from propolis, or sufficiently

so to justify the use of the paper in the time saved alone; of time cleaning sections where it is not used; but this is mentioned only as a compensation to offset the time taken to put it on. But it was not intended to be the *leading advantage*—only a secondary one.

The *chief* one was that it renders the supers air-tight at once, when properly placed, thus sparing thousands of bees to go afield that might be needed to keep up the necessary heat in the super without it. While saving other bees from gathering so much propolis before work could begin in the supers at all in a cold spell, it might save a week or more in the starting in the supers, and pay a hundred times its cost, even if a new sheet had to be used each time.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 31.

["It never rains but it pours." Perhaps friend Danzenbaker will think so when he reads the following editorial from the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for November. Here is the item:

Our brethren (or, rather, SOME of our brethren) on the other side of the line have been advocating paraffine paper over the sections to prevent the bees from propolizing the sections. We do not hesitate to say that no bee-keeper, anxious to produce first class honey in sections, and willing to master that business, should use such paper. In the first place, it is not necessary so far as propolizing is concerned; and in the next, the best-filled sections can not be secured without a bee-space above the sections.

It is but fair to say that Mr. D. does produce some very fine honey, and some of his customers have secured some equally good, as I can personally testify. While I am an advocate of a bee-space over sections I would not say that first-class honey can not be produced by doing away with the space and using paraffine paper directly over and in contact with the sections. Mr. Miles Morton, who produces as fine honey as can be found in the world, uses an enamel cloth (the equivalent of paraffine paper), directly on the sections and so do many others.—Ed.]

[If editor Post reads carefully my editorial he will see that I do not exactly say that comb honey cannot be produced without a bee space above the sections. I say, "No bee-keeper, anxious to produce first-class honey in sections, and willing to master that business, should use such paper." There is a difference. Such a man would seek out the best and keep raising his standard, and if the gentlemen mentioned will make a fair trial, comparing the bee space above the sections to