

four inches wide by one foot long, as I find the bees are less liable to enter the wrong hive than if the alighting board ran continuously along the whole front of the packing box. An inch rim is placed between the bottom of the brood chamber and the bottom board, which gives sufficient room for inserting a crooked wire for the removal of dead bees, etc., during the winter.

As to whether these outside cases should be painted or not, is for others who may use them to decide. I, however, prefer them so treated, if for nothing but the appearance. The roof should, in any case, receive sufficient paint to prevent leakage.

I have the hives standing in rows of 12 or 15 each in the apiary, so that a short time before I place them in their winter quarters, I gradually move them a little every few days, until I have all in clusters of three hives each, sitting side by side, so that all I have to do is to place the portable clamp, or box just where the cluster of hives stood, and place them inside. The bees seem but very little confused, in fact, appear rather delighted to find such comfortable quarters for the approaching cold weather. When the proper time in spring returns for the removal from the clamp, the two outside ones are again gradually moved from the centre one, so that in a few days they stand at the proper distance apart, without the bees being aware of any change of location. The sooner the hives are placed in these cases after all honey-gathering is over, or about Oct. 1, the better, as the bees seem to nestle themselves away so cosily that neither the rains nor any outside disturbance appear to effect them. I have always found that the bees flew from these repositories as late in the fall as was in any way beneficial so far as a last cleansing flight is concerned. With plenty of well ripened and properly sealed stores of any kind, no fears need be entertained. A board is leaned against the entrance in such a way as to prevent the cold winds and rain or snow from entering, always, of course, seeing that plenty of fresh air is admitted when necessary.

As to the kind of packing preferred, I may state that I have used saw dust, planer shavings and ordinary chaff, but I now use the chaff to be had at flax mills exclusively; both around the hives and on top of the brood-chamber, first placing some sticks crosswise of the frames, then a clean quilt, covering all up with about eight inches of the chaff. The entrances are left about two-thirds open all winter, after all danger of robbing is over. With me, packing the bees taken from the cellar in spring is quite beneficial. These, of course do not require the

same care in packing, nor is it necessary to use such expensive cases, as I have for this purpose some single ones of very light material that answer the purpose admirably.

Before concluding I may add that quite a number who have seen the plan given above, among them Mr. Martin Emigh, who, although not practising outside wintering, thinks it a very complete arrangement.

True, all this takes time, and trouble too, but there is very little about the bee business that does not require both at certain seasons of the year, and all timely preparation pays in the end, be it little or much. A successful bee-keeper must love the work to a greater or lesser extent, or failure in time is sure to follow, indeed, with two such seasons as have already passed, the great wonder is that so many are still resolving to prepare for another season; you may, however, place me right on that list, as I trust all those having bees next spring may have a good honey harvest, and thus cheer up any who may have, to some extent, become discouraged of late. Mrs. G., who is also an enthusiast, says that a few more such songs as was published in *Gleanings* for Oct. 1st, viz.: "Dot Happy Bee Man," written and composed by friends Miller and Secor, ought to dispel all gloomy foreboding as to the future.

F. A. GEMMEL.

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Dr. C. C. Miller in American Bee Journal.

BUYING A LOCATION.

NECTAR PUBLIC PROPERTY.—LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

FRIEND Newman:—I enclose a private letter from one of the prominent bee-keepers of Canada, and I think that I betray no confidence in allowing you to print that part of it which is of public interest, and shows some careful thinking. I am glad to know that I am not so entirely alone as I formerly considered myself, in thinking that *something* ought to be done. After reading the article of Mr. McNeill, on page 586, and the comments thereon, I am strongly impressed that bee-keepers will begin to see the possibility of conflict arising at any and all points, and that certain laws that might perhaps be easily had for the asking, would forever set them free from the danger of litigation that would come without the asking, and require heavy fees before its departure. But here is the letter from Canada:

"I fully believe in such legislation as will