



Instructions for Handling Comb Honey.

—G. A. DEADMAN.

Considerable has been written regarding the handling of comb honey by the producer and freight or Express agent, but I have never seen an article referring to comb honey, as to educating those who handle it over the counter. I would recommend a slip of paper with short and implicit directions printed thereon, and have one put in every crate of comb honey. When this crate reaches the merchant, both himself and his clerks are educated as to the proper way to handle it to avoid leaking. When I realize how very easy it is to break one or more cells of the delicate comb, and thereby cause the honey to leak I have wondered how frequently this must be done by one or another having to handle it, who perhaps has never seen such a delicacy before. I have come to the conclusion that while bee-keepers are as a rule a very intelligent lot, having in their ranks men who occupy a prominent place in other pursuits, yet they are behind the times as regards educating others as to the proper way of handling the product of their apiaries. Last fall I wrote out a copy for the printer but as most of my honey was shipped I have delayed getting them, and have since thought it might be advisable to have others give their views on this subject, and in this way arrive at something better than that which I suggest. They could then be printed by the thousands, and sold much cheaper than when printed in small quantities. Here is what I propose, size of same about 5 x 8 inches.

COMB HONEY.

HOW TO HANDLE IT.

You must not drop it. Hold it only by the wood, and when removing it from the crate, or at any other times, do not break the delicate cappings covering the cells, otherwise the honey will run out.

WHERE TO KEEP IT.

In a warm dry room. No place too warm in which a person could live. Never put it in the cellar, as honey will draw dampness, and cause the cappings to break and the honey to leak.


(The address went below.)

I have considered the above all the more necessary after taking a trip to the far

West. There are many, yes, more than we have any idea of, who have never seen comb honey, much less know how to handle it. A little girl was taking tea with her mother at our home recently. I helped her to some comb honey. She hesitated a little, then politely asked that I would take off the paper, so thin and delicate was the capping covering the hidden sweet. When in Brandon and calling upon a merchant there, he remarked: "O, I have some left from last year, it is in the cellar." It was a surprise to him that honey should never be kept (except sealed air-tight) in the cellar. In another town a merchant remarked: "I cannot keep the honey from leaking. I put it in the cellar, but it will leak." These were not the only two, by any means, who did not know that the cellar is not the place to keep honey and one does not require to go out of his own town to find them either. When I think of it, how manufacturers of novelties have set us the example of the wisdom of making everything simple and plain as to handling their goods. For instance, we have in the shop a toy called the climbing monkey and another the flying bird. When the box is opened you not only find directions as to how it is worked, but you will also see a picture of it in operation. Now the inventor or manufacturer of this toy might from his own familiarity with it have thought that there is no need for instructions regarding it, as it is so very simple; but no, he wisely gives implicit directions regarding the use of it. I think we too often take too much for granted, and because we are familiar with something ourselves, we think others must be. How frequently we have heard some public speaker say: "You are all familiar with the story of—", and very likely not more than one in ten have ever heard it. It may be he does not really believe they have, because he then goes on and tells it. However do not let us think that we can make it too plain, or bring it too frequently before those who have the handling of our honey, the proper way to handle or the best place to keep it.

Brussels, Ont.

[An excellent article. What do our comb honey men say? We think the size of slip, say 3x4 in. sufficient.—ED.]



 I am sure all bee-keepers are glad to learn that your firm are still going to continue the bee supply business.

JAMES FERGUSON.

Lampton, April 8th, 1898.