

wish to ship, will not be out of place, for those who have not had much experience in the business. Just at the present time there are two ~~by~~ three shipments of wax lying here awaiting ~~the~~ means of identification. We haven't any idea from whence it has come, and can do nothing with it till we hear from whoever sent it. Now all the delay and trouble which is caused in matters of this kind could be overcome if each shipper would just write on a card his name and address, and the number of pounds of wax. Then tack it on the corner of the box, and when it gets here we know just whose it is. When a customer writes us saying he has shipped us some wax, we at once enter in our "Wax Book," the name and address of sender, the number of packages and the number of pounds they say they have sent, how sent, (freight or express) and what disposition they wish made of it, (whether to be made into foundation, for sale, or in exchange for other goods). Then when the shipment arrives, the clerk who weighs up the wax, looks at the box, sees whose it is, and turns to the page in the wax book, where the particulars are to be found. No time is lost hunting up whose weight it corresponds with, and a lot of such like trouble—and all because the name and address of shipper is not on the box or boxes in which the wax is sent.

SENDING BEES C.O.D.

Several friends have written for bees and said, "send them C.O.D." We write back and refer them to our circular on page five, of which we say: "Perishable property, as bees, queens, etc., will not be sent as express, C.O.D., but cash must accompany order. This is imperative." The reason why we make this rule cannot be explained in any better language than that used by Friend Root in the last issue of *Gleanings*:—"This C.O.D. is a bad business anyway, for the reason that there are always more or less people who will be short of money, or change their minds when the goods get to their stations. Bees are perishable property, and it is a good deal of work to put them up ready for shipment, to say nothing of express charges both ways. Certain kinds of goods can be sent C.O.D. without much difficulty, especially where there is considerable value in very small compass. A watch, for instance, may be sent to the purchaser, and he may be allowed to examine it before paying; but to think of doing the same thing with a swarm of bees is out of the question. The shipper ought to have the cash in his pocket, or an order from some good reliable man, before he even puts them up." As a general thing it is only new customers who ask to have bees sent in

this way, and it is because they do not understand the business we presume.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

A friend in the United States has asked us to give him the rates of postage from the United States into Canada on small packages by mail. We are sorry that we cannot accommodate him from any official document. We imagine that parcels cannot be sent at all between the two countries. We know that *parcels* cannot be sent by post to any place beyond the Dominion of Canada, and regarding patterns or samples of merchandise the Canadian "Official Guide" says: "Patterns, or samples of merchandise, or of goods for sale, including grains, seeds, and bulbs in parcels not exceeding eight ounces in weight, may be posted in Canada for transmission to the United States on prepayment by postage stamps of a rate of ten cents each packet." Under this clause queens have been forwarded to the United States, and they have also been sent at full letter rates. When for breeding purposes bees and queens are not liable to duty. Only a day or two ago we received from a queen-breeder in the Southern States five packages of queens, (each package weighing less than eight ounces) and on which the sender had put stamps to the value of three cents each. On arrival here, however, each packet was labelled "seven cents to pay," making ten cents postage on each package. So that it seems queens may be sent by mail into Canada at ten cents per package, of less than eight ounces. Books may be sent from Canada to the United States for private use, and when not exceeding one dollar in value, at book rates of postage (one cent each four ounces) and duty free. We have written a friend over the lines for information as to "rates to Canada" and will likely have them soon. But we should think, on application to any post office in the United States the rates could be ascertained.

While reading in a recent number of the "CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL" the varied opinions of a number of correspondents in answer to the question "How high above the ground do you prefer to have your hives?" we are reminded that the peculiar construction of a Kansas zephyr is such that the safety of a bee hive depends solely on the proximity of its bottom board to the ground. Some weeks since while placing one of Dr. Tinker's "Victor Hives" in position, (which by the way is perched upon legs 8 or 10 inches above the ground), a friend remarked, that if we expected to find the bees on