

ling bees. These are very necessary, but do not always save the bees. One friend wrote me this season that I had failed to put queens into four of the five packages sent him; he said, "I know this be so *because all of the bees clustered in one place.*" Further correspondence developed the fact that after preparing his five hives as directed, he turned all the bees loose at once by throwing them into the open air, expecting each nucleus with its appropriate queen to find the hive intended for it. Another friend lost three out of five nuclei by turning them into hives containing their full complement of combs, smeared and befouled by the bees that died during the winter and without giving them any brood to care for. Only two of the lot had grit enough to stay in their new quarters and clean up.

In regard to the profits to be derived from the business. After an experience of seven years, I believe that when we can retail extracted honey at home for eight and ten cents per pound, we cannot afford to retail our bees for less than \$3 per pound, in May, and assume all the risks now required of the shipper.

Probably the persons most benefited by the business, are those who have trouble in introducing queens, and they are not few; to such is certainly a very great advantage to buy a half pound of bees with each queen; so as to enable them to obtain the improved kinds without the risk of introducing. These little nuclei can be made working colonies at once by giving them two or three combs of brood and stores (without bees) from other hives. By adding other combs of brood as fast as the bees can care for them, they can be quickly built into full and profitable colonies; indeed two or three combs of brood and stores, is help enough in ordinary seasons, if the bees are purchased early, and in extra good seasons one half pound of bees with a good queen will often grow into a fine colony for winter. A small beginning, but not quite so hopeless as the one made by one of my neighbors. He sent to me for an untested queen; shortly afterwards he called at my yard and complained that the queen did not do very well, in fact had deserted her hive. It seems that he had put her with the few bees sent with her in the mailing cage, into a large cracker box into which he had fastened a one pound section containing comb but no honey. He said there were just nine bees with her, and that he thought four of these were plenty to stay with the queen while the other five went out to gather honey and wax.

At the risk of incurring the charge of being 'enthusiastic' in regard to the immense profits to be derived from purchasing bees by the pound, I will close by giving you an extract from

a letter received from one of our Iowa customers; it sounds a little extravagant, but it is by no means an uncommon report; he probably had an extra good run of honey. Here it is.

"I kept eleven of those one pounds, put each in a full grown chaff hive with three empty combs, this is all the help they had except a little feed when they first came, and a little foundation. They filled up their hives, increased to twenty good strong colonies and gave me about 400 pounds of nice comb honey. A swarm from one of them took the first premium (\$1.00) at our district fair."

E. M. HAYHURST,

A. I. Root—I do not think the letter extravagant; such reports are quite frequent. The original half-pound of bees that Mr. Hayhurst sent me was put upon combs, and made so strong a colony that it was, I believe, divided in the fall. We must have young bees, and the bee-keeper must be an expert. Mr. Root then described what could be done in a single season with a half pound of bees and a fertile queen in May.

There was general concurrence in the utility and convenience of selling bees by the pound
Kansas City Mo., Dec. 1st, 1885.

PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:

IT has been announced that I am to lead in the discussion regarding the production of Comb Honey. Before doing so I wish to quote the words found on page 723 of the *American Bee Journal*: "Long articles seldom profit those who have to do with them. Life is short; time is short; moments are precious." Especially is this last true at a bee convention, and many a person has become tired on account of the long essays read at the same. What we want is animated discussion, rather than long essays, no matter how ably written. Therefore the best part of this paper will be its briefness. There are four things of importance in the production of comb honey; First, a good queen; second, the getting of the bees at the right time to receive the harvest; third, a skillful apiarist; and fourth, the right kind of a hive.

I put the queen first for the whole of bee-keeping centres upon her. Without a queen it would be impossible to produce a pound of comb honey. Hence it becomes apparent that the better the queen is the more honey we obtain. When we come to fully realize the great value of *really good queens*, we shall have less of queens costing the apiarist nothing. I wish to have the impression on this assembly that good queens