

Hall, of Woodstock, who occupied the vice chair. While sitting beside Mr. Hall, a "good thing" occurred which I cannot resist telling now that the opportunity has presented itself. It occurred this way: After Mr. Hall had disposed of the toast list placed at his disposal, I noticed a large number of gentlemen had said nothing. I thought some might be brought to their feet if they had the opportunity, so I suggested to Mr. Hall to call for volunteer toasts. It seemed to strike Mr. Hall as a good idea, so he immediately rose, placed his hands with great deliberation upon the table, cleared his throat and said: "We all admire our noble young men, whose patriotic fervor prompts them to take up their arms at their country's call, and defend it if need be, with their lives! Let us," with a majestic wave of the hand, calling the guests to their feet, "Let us drink the health of our noble volunteers!" Alas! the silent bee-keepers were not in it. Not one arose to respond. One or two young men, whom Mr. Holtermann had engaged to furnish the musical part of the program, replied. The hand of Mrs. Hall was plainly visible. She had evidently kept her mate at home when the convivial Scotchmen and Irishmen of Woodstock were around the banquet table keeping alive the immortal memories of their respective countries. Mr. Hall, evidently was not one of them. No one present saw the joke, and I have been bursting ever since to tell it.

Frame Hives and Box Hives.

—G. M. DOOLITTLE

For a long time it has been taken for granted that the movable frame hive was vastly superior to the box hive for the production of comb honey, with but little thought being given to the subject. If I asked a prominent bee-keeper the question, which is the better, the frame hive or the box hive for the producing comb honey? the answer I would receive nine times out of ten would be, "why, the frame hive, most certainly. If this were not so all the writers in the different bee papers would not be writing about frame hives and praising them." But the simple reason that writers on bee culture use frame hives amounts to but little. The things we wish

to know is, why these writers use the frame hives in preference to a well made and a well proportioned box hive. As I am asked nearly the same thing by a correspondent, he saying, "give your views through the columns of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL," perhaps it may be interesting to some, to go over these grounds with me. Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles told the early Christians that they should always be ready "to give a reason of the hope" they had, so any bee-keeper should always be ready to give a valid reason for the way he manages his bees, or a good reason to support whatever he writes for publication. If any man or woman cannot do this they can rest assured that there is something wrong somewhere. So, when asked as above, I questioned myself, why do I use movable frame hives in preference to box hives? As I believe I have good reasons for so doing, I will give them to the readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, and let them draw their own conclusions as to the correctness of the same. We are to suppose each style of hive is well made, and of the same dimensions, and that the box hive gives as easy access to the surplus arrangement as does the other, so that we may be fair in our reasoning. Keeping all of the above in our minds we proceed; as spring is the season when we first begin to prepare to secure our honey crop, we will commence with that time. Upon the first warm day we wish to know that each hive has honey enough in it to last till the flowers bloom, so the bees can secure a living. To this end we wish to examine the inside of the hives, we come to the box hive, take it from the bottom board, and hold it up to the sun, driving the bees down with smoke, to see if we can see any sealed honey, and after inspecting all as best we can, we have to guess at the matter, and trust that our "guess" is right. If bars are used at the top in connection with the honey board, we can remove the honey board and guess a little closer than before. With the movable frame hive all we have to do is to lift out the frames and we know to a certainty just how much honey there is in the hive. As we work on we soon find a colony with little or no honey, which would starve if not fed in a week, so we get out our feeder and feed them. If it keeps warm so the bees can get at the feeder, or to a comb of honey we place in the chamber to the hive, all goes well. If it turns cold our bees starve. In a case like this, with the frame hive, all we have to do is to give the starving colony a frame of sealed honey from