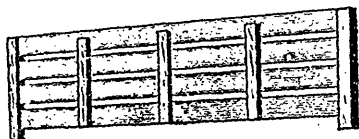


No Bee Way Sections.

We have before made reference to the "No Bee Way Sections." Our opinion has been that all the conditions which lead to the securing of well filled sections can be secured, and are already secured, without having a section with the sides the same width as the top and bottom. The fence separator is comparatively difficult to clean, and a greater expense than the straight. I have been asked to give some of the arguments against the fence separator and "no bee way section." I have at different times objected to taking up the subject again, but the pressure has increased and I have consented. At the outset, let me say, the pressure has been brought to bear by those who do not think it advisable to adopt "no bee way sections." Let me say that what we want is straight and pointed remarks bearing upon the question. If my arguments are faulty I am anxious to have them criticised and if the arguments used by those opposed to me can be shown to be faulty and misleading, I must claim a similar privilege. The question is open to both sides for discussion.

Taking the circular and price list for 1898 of the A. I. Root Co., we find the following:

1st. "These fences are made entirely of



The Fence Separator.

scrap and consequently will cost but little more than the old-style separator, which, after being used a year or so, had to be discarded. As they will be glued together at the factory by automatic machinery, the bee-keepers will not be bothered to put them together. Those who have used this glued fence say it is good for years. They are, therefore, cheaper when viewed in this light, than the old separators."

The new fence then, to begin with, costs a little more, but the old straight separator is discarded after a year or two and

the new is not. Why are ordinary separators discarded? Is it not because they become soiled and travel stained? I am, of course, not writing about those who are careless and allow them to be lost and trodden under foot. I will allow bee-keepers themselves to answer this question. Surely the new fence separator, with three spaces between the wood or bars and five upright posts cannot be scraped more readily than a plain board, and unless "the leopard has changed his spots," the bees are more likely to propolize in the angles and corners of the fence. How it can be otherwise we would like to know.

2nd. "Prettier and better filled comb honey can be secured with a fence, for the reason that the bees can crawl all through the slats, affording them easy and direct passageways from one honey box to another. One great objection to the old style super with its separators is that it shuts off each section box into a compartment or room by itself; and, as everyone knows, it was much harder to get bees to enter comb honey supers than supers of the extracting sort."

It appears reasonable that there would appear to be an advantage in the open separator, although, in the tests we have made—particularly in the separators towards the centre of the super—this advantage has not been as apparent as I thought it would be. But the open separator is secured without the no-bee-way section. Mr. Jacob Albaugh's method is in my opinion, excellent. Instead of the five upright pieces of wood glued, five pieces of folded tin are used with projections to keep the cross pieces apart. When the tins or wood requires to be cleaned the wood strips are pulled out of the tin posts when all can be cleaned without having angles and corners.

Clause No. 2 goes on to say "it was much harder to get bees to enter comb-honey supers than supers of the extracting sort." From the above we would conclude that the argument is, that with the new fences the bees will enter sections as readily as extracting supers. Is it the case? I think the majority of bee-keepers will be inclined to the conclusion that such would be contrary to what they have found to be the habits of the bee.

4th. "The fact that the fence is made up of several different slats, bound by transverse strips on each side and grooved cleats on each end, has a tendency to very materially stiffen and strengthen the section holder. In the old style super the