

from moulding as the damp would not accumulate. We do not remember ever having mouldy combs where the temperature was high enough or the colony sufficiently strong to generate such a degree of heat as to cause all the moisture to pass off, and although colonies oftentimes winter well with mouldy combs, and moisture in the hive, we think they cannot be as healthy (even though equal in numbers) as those that winter without. Mould and dampness seem to injure small colonies more than large and the former thrive better in a dry atmosphere.


A NEW WAY OF PUTTING LUMBER TOGETHER.

After using most of our broad lumber in stock we got a chance to buy a very large quantity of narrow at a reduced price, and as it was not quite broad enough for some of our work it was necessary to match, glue, dowel, or put together with metal tongues. Finally Jas. A. Johnston conceived the idea of running it over the dovetail saw, allowing it to come above the table far enough to make a half-inch groove. By this means narrow lumber could be put together and come out as strong and as water tight as if no joints existed. After testing this we found that if the outside edges happened to be very tight they were liable to split off, so Mr. Mitchell, the foreman, took a three-eighth inch saw, cut each side away the proper depth leaving the centre with two tongues, each about one-eighth of an inch thick. Thus a board seven-eighths of an inch thick instead of having the usual one tongue, had two. The other piece had simply two saw cuts near the centre to fit these two tongues, while the tongue between these saw cuts passed up between the other two. In other words it is double-tongue and groove work. The next thing was to find a speedy way of putting them together tightly without splitting or injuring; pounding did not seem to do it as well as we would desire, so a machine was invented. We just dropped the two boards on the table and by a peculiarly constructed lever power they were pressed together so tightly and firmly in a moment as to make the crack almost imperceptible. By this method it matters not how many pieces are to be joined, by simply giving the lever a

pull all are pressed firmly together in an instant and it is astonishing to see what a perfect job this makes. We consider this a decided improvement on any system of tongueing, grooving or matching lumber we have yet noticed.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

AMATEUR EXPERT.

 WAS entertained and amused in reading about, and looking at the pictures of the surplus cases used in the home of Expert, the land of originality and mechanical invention. The land of resurrected Car Stewarton hives. I am quite favorably struck with the idea of screw pressure, for it is so handy for inverting, as well as other accomplishments. I learn that Mr. J. M. Shuck is wild with enthusiasm over the novel feature of the divisible case. All of these strike us as being more of a novelty than your $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ pattern of sections. We are firmly impressed with the bee-smashing qualities of the "runners" shown in Fig. 2. We tried the wide frame, also brood-frame with bee-space projections on them, long ago, and don't like them at all. We notice that you have not yet discovered the advantages of honey-boards; know that you will by and by, and when you do, we fear you will forget how you opposed them in 1888, and claim them as a new and novel invention. We are sorry the queen excluding metal won't work over there for in our apiary it works like a charm. We were a little fearful at first, but repeated experiments on a comprehensive scale, demonstrated that our fears were ill-founded. We are glad that we have only such queens as are too large to get through a slot which freely admits her workers. I am surprised at your 1886 "flash." We have in our honey-house perforated separators with feet on them, which have lain there as dead as the corpses which they are, for seven or eight years. I think we borrowed the perforated idea, but the feet were our invention. Both are worse than worthless, and you folks over the water are welcome to them so far as I am concerned.

Why Amateur Expert I am surprised that you should "claim" anything, good, bad, or indifferent, for the old "chestnuts," called "slotted dividers" by you, and "perforated separators" by Yankees, for lo, these many years. Hadn't you better come over here and see what we have, and not get so far behind us, as to be newly discovering our old, discarded implements, and well advertised inventions.

JAMES HEDDON.

Dowagiac, Mich.