

honey of customers. By the time that the freight is paid, and the trouble and cost of handling is taken into consideration, the cost of the honey is so advanced that there is little or no margin in the transaction. Some four years since, and single handed, we attended a meeting of the General Freight Agents of the different Canadian lines, with a view of having the rates reduced on bees, bee-hives, "nailed," "in the flat," or "knocked down" as the railway companies express it. We were so successful in that effort that to-day, instead of our customers having to pay four times first class rates on bees, it is reduced to "double first class." Instead of "double first class" rates on hives, "made up," the rate is now "first class," and on hives, "knocked down," the freight rate now, instead of "first class," is "third class." The rates throughout were reduced one-half. There is no doubt in our minds, but that, if properly approached, the desired end can be attained. The other points raised by Mr. McKnight are also subjects of which we have very much need to dispose. We will speak of them another time. The columns of the C.B.J. are open to all who desire to discuss these matters, and we hope to have full views expressed on the different subjects.

From our English Correspondent.

#### "Standard" Frames, Distance Pins, and Metal Ends.

OUR hives, however much they may differ in external appearances, have one thing in common. It is this:—The frames are all hung in them by the end lugs of the top bar. None of the frames stand on the bottom boards as those used by Mr. Cornell for example.

You must not expect me to defend the 'standard' frame in these columns. I am only writing a description, not a defense, of our hives and appliances. This 'standard' was fixed by the B.B.K. after much thought and discussion. Every conceivable size and shape has been tried Italian, German, Swiss and American. Shallow frames are old with us, as old as the Stewarton system but this Standard size has been selected as the happy medium and is I believe the best size for our climate.

Being decided on we soon settled down to adapt ourselves to it, and now we have all our hives, extractors, and bee-gear, generally, suited to it, we find it has simplified matters so much

that it would cause a strong commotion if it was seriously proposed to alter it. But I do not think it is likely we shall find the man sufficiently bold just yet.

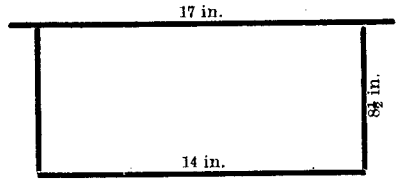


FIG. 1.

I have inserted the size again at Fig. 1 to save you the trouble of referring back to page 534 of C. B. J. It is very nearly the size used by Mr. Woodbury, the 'Langstroth' of British bee-keepers. Pine planks come to us chiefly 9 ins. and 11 ins. deep, consequently hives to take the standard frame can be made from boards 9 ins. deep and plenty room is allowed for bee-space under the bottom bar after the board is placed smooth on each edge. The top bar and two sides of the frame is finished  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. x  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. The bottom bar is  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. x  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. and is used simply to keep the sides steady. The top bar being 17 ins. long gives good finger room for the operator to hold it by during manipulation. The outer walls of the hive are made exactly 17 ins. apart (within) thus allowing the top bar to drop down between them and at the same time preventing lateral movement; and also preventing too large a bee-space one end of the frame, and too small or none, the other. The ends of the frames being only  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide allows the bees free access around them. Close ended frames on what is known as the 'Giotto' system are in great disrepute in England.

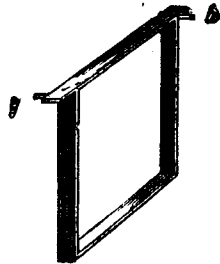


FIG. 2.

Our committee when deciding on this frame left the question of 'distance pins' out of the question, they are no part of the standard frame; but distance guides of some kind are very largely used, in fact almost universally so. Their object is, I need scarce point out, to keep the centre of the frames nineteen-twentieths of an