

between the full combs. This insures straighter combs and has a tendency in favor of less drone comb. In frames with a light top bar it will be necessary to use a folded piece of tin in the centre of the frame to hold the wires taut, and keep the top and bottom bars relatively the same distance apart all along. Punch the holes three to four inches apart, having the outside wires say one inch each from the end bars. Then fasten the first ends by a small tack at one side and go on with your sewing down and up until you get over to the other side, where it is again fastened with a tack, or small wire nail. On page 30 of the BEE JOURNAL for vol. 4, Mr. R. Knechtal gives a very good plan of wiring frames from the spool wire.

#### THE CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT.

We sowed a quantity of this seed last year, and we have at this writing perhaps 5,000 fine healthy looking plants about six inches high. We sowed it broadcast, and consequently will have to do a lot of transplanting, as it is much too thick. We will not need it all, so that if anyone wants to try a number of these plants they can have them at \$1.50 per hundred, boxed and packed ready for shipment. For 50 plants 85 cents.

#### THE WORK OF THE WEEK.

Our foreman is yet able to look after all our apiaries. He takes in a new one each day, thus getting to each every third day to see that everything is all right. We do not want the novice to understand that every time he goes to a yard he has to take a look at every hive. Such a thing would be folly. On the first examination all the colonies were marked as to condition, and some of them have never been bothered since, while those that were marked for "future attention" have received it. Yesterday he went over the colonies requiring this attention at the home yard and he found them all in good condition—much better than ever before at this time of year. Some of the colonies are brimming over with bees. Brooding is going on nicely in all the colonies, and in his examination the foreman made exchanges of frames of brood and larvæ, such as we mentioned in Our Own Apiary in the last issue.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN SMOKERS.

We have been making some improvements in smokers the past month, and our experiments prove that they are an advantage. In the regular Bingham smoker the fuel was put in by removing the nozzle. This was found to be a very awkward way of doing it, we have therefore made the end of the fire-barrel movable, and it can now be removed and fresh fuel put in at pleasure without the chance of burning the fingers which you were apt to meet with before. The guard or grate which prevents the fire from falling down into the bellows, is fastened to the movable end and is so placed that when shoved on the smoker the grate clears the draft tube. The grate used in the nozzle to prevent the embers from falling in on the bees, was formerly held in place by clock springs, we now make them a part of the nozzle and fasten them into position permanently. Should the nozzle become clogged there will be no difficulty in clearing it out by using a piece of stiff wire. The Clark smokers which we are now making have all the latest improvements, and we think will give good satisfaction. We shall try them in our own apiary shortly and report.

#### HEATHER.

WHAT the above can be grown on this side of the "big pond" seems possible. The following notes from the works of botanists are sent us by Mr. J. Hinton, Sherbrook, Que. :

*From Henderson's Book of Plants.*—Callunna or heather.—*C. vulgaris*. The only species is the well-known heather of Scotland, popularly known as Ling or common heath. It has become naturalized in a few localities in this country. It is reported at Twicksbury, Mass, and at Cape Elizabeth, Maine. It is also found sparingly in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

*From Gray's Manual of Botany.*—*C. Vulgaris*, Salisbury (*C. Atlantica* ; Jour. Bot., vol. 4, page 305 and 53. *Erica vulgaris* L. Low grounds, Twicksbury, Mass., Jackson Dawson & Co., a small patch ; Borders of forest on Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Mr. Richards from Dr. Wood. Also Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Newfoundland. See various articles in *American Journal*. July and August.