

Convenient Hive For Outdoor Wintering.

—D. W. Heise.

In complying to the request made by the editor for suggestions along the line of helping Will Ellis, to solve the problem as to the best, cheapest and lightest arrangements for outdoor wintering with least labor, I propose to describe a hive which I am making for outdoor wintering, as well as a convenient summer hive. I do not know that I can aid him any in the manner of cheapness because if he expects to get a strong, practicable, good all purpose winter hive, without the necessary expense attached, I fear he will have to continue with fussing with packing cases, clamps, and cheap lumber, the latter I am sure is not the wisest economy, when we consider years of usefulness, Mr. Ellis's method of using one hive for winter, and another one for summer, I cannot pass by without a little criticism. If Mr. E. was situated as I am, namely, very limited space for hive stands, I am afraid he would be at the additional expense of renting a lot from his neighbor in which to stack his winter hives in summer. The hive I intend to use hereafter will do away with all such unnecessary work. The description of my hive is thus. I first make the brood chamber out of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch lumber, the sides being the desired depth the ends being $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch narrower, the sides nailed square on to the ends, I next tack 3 plies of common felt building paper on all four sides of this box, I then nail on another thickness of boards $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, nail on the ends first thus lapping over the ends of the sides of the first box the ends in this case are the same width as the sides thus leaving a rabbet for the tin frame rests. In this outer case cheap lumber can be used either matched, ship-lap or bevelled as desired. A $\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch strip with a $\frac{3}{4}$ rabbet taken cut of the upper outside corner is nailed around the upper edge of the hive, letting the lips left by the rabbet come even with the upper edge of the hive, next make a rim out of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch lumber 1 inch wider than the hive body, from the bottom edge of the strip above spoken of; to the bottom of the hive, and large enough so it will fit loosely in the rabbet of the strip which has been nailed on the upper edge of the hive as described. I like this run on my hives very much for several reasons a few of which I may

enumerate. In early spring when manipulating frames filled with young brood they can be raised up in this rim to be examined and are greatly protected from chill winds. This rim also protects surplus supers as they can be tiered up as high as desired the same as the supers. The covers I use are gable ends with side three inches deep and made so they fit either the hive with or without the rim. The rim and the depth of cover will take in two section supers or one extracting super. I make another rim same size as the one described but only $\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and tack a piece of canvas over the bottom and fill with chaff instead of cushion. This rim also fits into the rabbet and the cover fits the upper edge. It will be noticed that by making the first rim mentioned to fit into the rabbet it will be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch larger on all sides the body of the hive. A loose bottom is to be used on this hive and large enough so when the hive is set on it will project $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches on each side, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and a quarter inches at back and as much in front as may be desired for an alighting board. Now all that is necessary to prepare this hive for winter is to lift the hive off the bottom board, set the rim in its place and drop the hive into the rim it will drop down to the strip with the rabbet thus the frames will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the bottom board. Now put on your rim filled with chaff and the cover on top and the job is done. In this hive we have 3 thickness of boards equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. dead air space and 3 thickness of felt paper, I might say further that I have tested this hive along side of a double-walled hive stuffed with dry sawdust with a thermometer in each. I made 4 tests and in every instance the paper lined hive stood on an equal with the packed hive. Now Bro. Ellis, if you can understand this long description try it perhaps, Mr. Editor can simplify the description somewhat. All who have seen this hive pronounce it a perfect arranged winter hive providing it gives the same results as the packed hive, which I am satisfied it will, and it is much lighter, much smaller in size and a most vermin proof. Now I have no patent on this hive, do not manufacture for sale. Have no axe to grind etc. So make it, who choose.

Bethesda, Ont., Feb'y 8th, 1895.

The Swarming Season.

As we are in the midst of the swarming season I thought I would give you a short sketch of my method of hiving swarms which I believe will be old to quite a number of your readers as quite a large number