

upon removing the propolis quilt in the fall we often find drops of water collected on its under side and also on the tops of the frames and combs—the evaporation from the bees not having been able to escape through the propolized quilt. Such a colony is not in fit condition for winter quarters till it gets thoroughly dry. Most of you have also doubtless noticed that removing the summer quilt and substituting an entirely different one to the cause of considerable excitement and agitation amongst the bees, and this is certainly a bad condition to arouse in putting them into winter quarters.

My own habit is to remove the propolis quilt some time before setting in so that they can have time to settle down and reconcile themselves to their new condition and have a flight before they go in. When I remove the propolis quilt and substitute a cotton one after laying two or three short sticks, say an inch square, across the frames to give the bees a winter passage, I put on the warm woollen winter quilts to retain the heat. They will then get nice and dry before they are put in. By having them in this shape I can gently carry them in and deposit them without agitating them at all as they are all prepared for the cellar.

At this date (Nov. 18) my bees are mostly all in winter quarters. I commenced setting in the 8th of the month, continued the 9th and then again the 15th, all being in nice dry condition. Those out are to be removed by purchasers; otherwise they too would be in. The thermometer stands about 50° and "order reigns in Warsaw."

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont.

### FREIGHT RATES ON HONEY.

THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT GRANT AND OTHER MATTERS.

AT the approaching annual meeting of the Association there are several matters that ought to be taken up and dealt with. One of these is decided action with a view to secure reduced freight rates on honey. The schedule rates of the various carrying companies are now out of all proportion to the risk, storage and trouble incurred, and out of all proportion to that of many other classes of goods quite as risky and bulky. First class freight rates are now charged for extracted honey no matter in what form it is shipped, unless it is put up in kegs or barrels—a form in which very little honey is transported by us. Why we should have to pay the same amount per hundred for honey shipped in tins either wholly or partially encased in wood, that is

charged for dry goods which is much more valuable and bulky is something that is hard to be explained. As a matter of justice, honey so done up, should be rated down as low as syrups and all such goods. I believe if proper representations were made to the railway authorities, a marked reduction in freights would be secured. This is a matter that interests every bee-keeper in the Province.

Another matter that ought to be settled is the appropriation of the Government grant. Without going into details it would be well, I think, for the Association to supplement the exhibition prize list by a liberal prize for the *most attractive display of honey*. Something certainly ought to be done to increase the attraction of the honey show. Hitherto its magnitude has been its redeeming feature. It is time more taste was displayed in its get-up. Perhaps no other department of the Toronto Exhibition has been thrown together so promiscuously and with less apparent taste in its arrangements than have the goods in the honey department. This is not as it ought to be. Surely bee-keepers should guard against impressing the public with the belief that as a class we are devoid of the artistic taste necessary to show off our goods to advantage.

Again more perfect machinery should be created for the better organisation of districts and their affiliation with the parent society. A suitable code of laws should be enacted for calling districts into organised life. Some pecuniary assistance should be given them in maintaining their organisations when affiliated. I think it will be found that some such change is necessary under the act of incorporation. My object in throwing out these hints is for the purpose of eliciting the opinions (on these and kindred matters) of those interested in seeing that the Bee-keepers' Association now recognised and assisted by the country is worthy the confidence and support bestowed upon it by the public.

R. MCKNIGHT.

Owen Sound, Ont., Nov. 22, '87.

We thank Mr. McKnight for having thus brought before readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, in such a clear light, these objects for discussion. It is quite true that honey is being charged at a much too exorbitant rate, and sales at a long distance are very hard to make, as the freight must always be a consideration. Only the other day we received a consignment of 1200 lbs. of honey, coming a distance of 100 miles, the freight on which amounted to \$6.00 or 50c. per hundred. This is the one great impediment in buying up the