

ed article, and if ready sale can be found for such, by all means continue doing so, as such honey can be produced with less close attention during the busy season. On the other hand, there are those who, for similar reasons, find it most profitable, and best suited to their ends, to work almost exclusively for comb honey, and my advice in this case (if it really amounts to anything) would be to still continue such a method.

Now it is not my intention at present to advise or give reasons for any practical line of action, but rather caution those bee-keepers who may anticipate making a change in the article produced, especially changing from the extracted to comb honey form. I also wish it distinctly understood that it makes not one iota of difference to me, whether every bee-keeper produces all comb, or all extracted honey. What I really desire to see is, a choice article of both produced, and not a poorer article harvested, and consequently placed upon the market to the detriment of all engaged in the pursuit.

My principal reason for the above caution is, because I have known instances where the apiarist imagined that comb honey production appeared the more profitable, and at once without any experience whatever, with neither the time, nor ability, to give such the proper attention at the right moment, made such a radical change, and as a result, became disgusted with his efforts in this direction, as nothing remained to gaze upon, except a crop of half-filled, travel stained, propolized sections for his pains.

Hoping this short article may be of some benefit to intending comb honey producers the coming season, as also to those laggards who are sometimes, if not always, behind time in making preparations in ample season. I will conclude trusting that what has been written, will be accepted in the spirit in which it has been intended, viz.—good faith.

Stratford, March 15th, 1897.

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GOOLD, SHAPLEY, MUIR & Co., (L'td
Brantford, Ont.

Taking Bees Out of Winter Quarters: Robbing.

—E. T. PETTIT.

A word upon the above subjects may be helpful to the beginner, and possibly also to some others. I am an advocate of taking them out on what may be called the early side. If the bees are at all uneasy and the weather suitable, any time in April is late enough. Reasons: uneasy bees are breeding; breeding bees are eating freely and largely, this soon gorges their bowels and they must fly or die. Bees that do feeding in winter quarters die off rapidly when set out. And further, if young bees cannot fly when nature calls them to do so, they soon get sick and die also. I venture the assertion, without fear of successful contradiction, that those who advocate leaving them in winter quarters that they may breed up strong, have failed, even in a small measure, to comprehend this matter, and are laboring under a telling and loosing mistake. But there is this to be said of them, such bee-keepers become experts at the building up business in spring, for they have a good deal of practice in that line. Right here let me interject the caution that a good warm cushion must be placed right on top of the frames and then a pretty heavy cover put on top of it to hold it down snug. But, after all, if they are very quiet, clean and slim, they are better, possibly, a while longer in the cellar.

The best way that I know of to keep them quiet and manageable while taking them out is as follows: when you feel pretty sure of the right kind of weather the next day, open the cellar door the evening before, the fresh air will disturb them a good deal, but they will be quiet in the morning, and the morning light stealing in upon them so gently will not disturb them. And now if you feel pretty sure of your day rush them out. Of course your stands should be all in readiness that no time be lost in fixing things. I used to put ice in the cellar and in the windows to keep the bees cool and quiet at time of taking them out, but the bright light and fresh air would greatly excite them and cause them to give a lot of trouble.

When the bees are out, a sharp look out to detect robbing is very necessary. If attended to when first started there will not be much trouble in breaking it up. But if neglected, like many other diseases it is