

GENERAL.

Oxford Bee-Keepers' Convention.

HEREWITH we present the papers omitted from our report of the above convention in last issue.

PREPARING AND MARKETING COMB HONEY.

In attempting to prepare an article on this subject it will be difficult to find ground that has not been gone over previously by some person; but I feel that there are bee-keepers in our Province who do not pay nearly enough attention to this matter, and they are not only losers themselves, but the grocers they sell to and other bee-keepers are often affected. If a grocer receives a lot of poor looking honey, he does not readily sell it; and had he received nicely done up honey of good quality he would have likely sold much more money and have caused a greater demand.

It is somewhat difficult to say just when or where to begin to prepare honey for market, perhaps the best time would be before we have any. To be able to have the choicest comb honey it must be built in nice white sections, and to find what a nice white section is we can ask different supply dealers for samples and there will likely be some suitable samples of sections received to choose from. Another article of importance is nice thin foundation. With this fastened in your sections, they have a neat appearance. Now, before placing the supers as filled with the sections on the hives for the bees to fill, you would likely have nicer comb honey if you scrape all the propolis possible from the hive and fixtures, as when the bees travel over the propolis there will be some stick to their feet and soil the cappings of the honey and sections. Some may think the propolis of little injury, but to those they might take the following precaution, which a gentleman claimed to have taken that showed some nice honey at one of our country fairs. A gentleman showing honey in competition with him wanted to know how he got such nice white comb, "well," he says, "If you do not tell any person, I'll tell you. I just fasten little mats at the entrance of the hives for the bees to wipe their feet on before going in." Now I do not know whether the mats were placed by the second gentleman or not, but I know that there are many that do not trouble with the mats, and there are enough and too many that do not scrape the propolis off. I usually find that comb honey taken from a swarm with new combs, frames and hive is nicer looking than if

taken from a swarm with new combs, frame and hive. With these precautions, and if their be a good yield of bright honey, you will be apt to have something fit for market. When you have the honey nicely filled in the sections, you will require nice shipping crates to hold from six to eighteen sections. Before putting the sections into the shipping crates, the propolis will have to be again looked after and scraped, and it is always better to have the manilla paper dish in the bottom to hold any leakage, that there may be.

In regard to the size of section to use, I believe a section that holds a pound of honey or as near it as possible is the best. I know there are many bee-keepers that use a section to hold an ounce or two less than a pound, but the objection I find to this is that it is sometimes used to deceive buyers. Sometimes the grocer is deceived and sometimes he is the deceiver. I believe the grocer often buys sections of honey for a pound and they are short, and the bee-keeper may sell him those sections at a cent or so less than his neighbor sells his sections, but the section that costs the most may be the cheapest. I know all bee-keepers do not sell sections by the piece, and I believe it to be generally unfair to do so.

I have no doubt but many bee-keepers have had grocers ask them for sections weighing an ounce or so less than a pound, as they can sell them for about the same as one that weighs a pound; but they want to buy the honey by weight from the bee-keepers all the same, and no doubt but there are bee-keepers who get sections out so that they can sell them for a cent or so less than their neighbors, who have them weigh a pound.

My best customers are men that wish sections that weigh a pound or as near it as possible, and they buy by the pound and sell by the pound. Are not these men deserving of confidence much more than the man who asks for a section less than a pound to sell by piece for a pound? I prefer to deal with the man that wishes to sell by the pound.

It would perhaps be well to give you an account of a purchase made last winter as an example. Not having enough comb honey to supply the demand I wrote to a gentleman that I heard of having comb honey for sale at a certain price, and I sent him an order for so many pounds of first-class honey at a certain price. Well, the honey did not come as ordered, it was not first class, it was dark, the comb soiled, the sections not cleaned of the propolis, shipped in a grocery box, some sections broken and all generally daubed, and weight short by about