



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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D. A. JONES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
 F. H. MACHERSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

GENERAL.

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.
 Hives.

THIS much talked of subject is not yet exhausted. There are at the present day a great variety of hives, each possessing its own special merits and advantages, and in as many cases all merits of possible possession claimed for it by those interested in it. Yet there is room for a disinterested party to stand up and give, in his opinion, the name of the hive possessing the maximum of merits and the minimum of defects.

Now we base our decision on the following points:

- 1st. Suitability to the general user.
- 2nd. Adaptability to the wants of the honey bee.
- 3rd. Simplicity of construction.
- 4th. Ease of manipulation.

1st. This point is the prime requisite of a hive. Should you wish to extract, the frame should be of such a shape and size as to be easily handled, readily removable from the hive, and the hive of such dimensions as to be easily moved by persons of ordinary strength. Should you wish to take comb honey, the hive should be so constructed as to size and depth

that the sections can be set on in supers and in such numbers that there will be a minimum of partly filled sections. In the fall, should the flow of honey unexpectedly cease the super should be of such construction as to make the sections readily removeable and at the same time hold them firm and close in the hive. They must also be capable of being tiered up to any height. They must be compact in shape so that little room is required when put into winter quarters.

2nd. Adaptability to the wants of the honey bee. Nature points out to us that the hive must not be too shallow. The limitations in the other directions, is only made by the convenience of the bee-keeper. Nature says a hive should be at least as deep as it is wide, and it is generally conceded that for most purposes the hive should contain at least a cubic foot. Now, a hive should conform as nearly as possible to the dimensions of a cube, of one cubic foot capacity, restricted somewhat to the use of the ordinary $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ section, thus compelling us to have the hive at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches in one direction inside. This size of hive admits of being tiered up, and at the same time allows the bees to cluster in their natural shape in winter and also allows the stores to be most convenient.

3rd. Simplicity of construction. Observation has proven to me that a great many of the "chicken fixings" now in use are worse than useless. It puzzles the novice and the veteran has no use for them.

4th. Ease of manipulation. The frames should be readily removable, so the ordinary hanging frame is just the thing. They should be constructed in such a manner that there are