

Having been making an inventory as to what it will cost me to sheet up the house inside with cheapest grade of matched lumber available, find it will cost me about \$12, so you see, after all, it was quite a practical joke. By way of explanation as to how I know exact number of culprits, would say that we know of four sudden deaths in the red squirrel family, and as no further signs have been seen of others, would conclude that we had the full number of offenders.

Wax Presses.

Mr. E. F. Atwater, in passing opinion on the "Miller" wax presses, has the following to say re the German and other steam presses: "the machine is a hopeless nuisance when the comb is melted in the machine, but by melting in a large kettle or tank the capacity of the press is increased manyfold, and the steam within the press assists in maintaining the proper temperature." I have used nearly all kinds of presses and at the risk of getting my hair pulled, want to place myself on record as agreeing entirely with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Atwater. While the steam presses are all right with the man who has a few colonies, how any extensive producer can fuss with them alone, is beyond my ken; but here again "tastes differ."

[We are pretty well agreed that the steam wax presses are not by any means perfect, but they have been better than anything we have had in wax extractors. We all welcome with open arms anything that is really an improvement.—Ed.]

Is Prolificness in Queens Always Desirable?

Mr. Dadant in American Bee Journal discussing their early experiences in the matter of queen rearing says the following three things were always

taken into consideration, viz.: Purity of race; prolificness and gentleness. When I say prolificness, I mean largest honey production. These two things always go hand in hand." So good an authority as Mr. J. B. Hall would object to so radical a claim, for I remember correctly Mr. Hall lays greater stress on longevity of the bees produced. Be that as it may, certainly my largest yields have always come from colonies headed by more than ordinarily prolific queens. In speaking of different races of bees, Mr. Dadant mentions the Carniolans as a slight variation of the common black bee. Begging pardon, Mr. D. in reaching such a verdict, am forced to believe that you never had any genuine Carniolan stock. Come to think of it, it would hardly be reasonable to expect such pioneer champions of the Italian race of bees, to readily see the good points of any other race.

Developing the Home Market.

Since reading friend Hand's article in February C. B. J. have been scratching my head and wondering if he meant me when making those odious comparisons as to how honey crops are disposed of. While I don't fill the bill in quite a few respects such as selling my honey for six cents and other minor details, and admit (and probably others will also) that with a little padding the shoe can be made to fit tolerably well. But say, friend Hand, wonder how much honey is used in York Co., anyway? We know of one house that uses 75,000 lbs. annually. Beat that if you can.

We had the pleasure of spending a pleasant time with Mr. Hand in September, and from the way good windows showed up in the matter of honey, can assure readers of the C.

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