

# The Practical Bee-Keeper.

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At last the welcome rain; bees stored some honey from buck wheat and golden rod.

Examine your hives carefully in preparing for winter and see that there are sufficient stores.

Strange it is that some honey producers are so careless in preparing their wares for market. A short time since the writer saw comb honey offered for sale which had been produced without the use of separators. The sections were run together and in one case several sections were joined diagonally. The merchant paid 9c. and was sorry for his bargain, as it was so difficult to handle. Again the sections were badly travel stained. The same honey had it been produced by means of separators could easily have brought the producer from 12 to 15c., Separators cost 35c. per 100, a fraction over 2c. for a 28 section super. 28 sections at an increased average price of say 4c. is equal to \$1.12. Subtract the price of separators 2c. and we find a clear gain on a single super of \$1.10. It pays to be progressive.

In a former number of this journal bee-keepers were advised to endeavor to create a home market for their comb honey. What was true then is true now. Comb honey should if possible be marketed in the vicinity in which it is produced. Fair, square dealing together

with a good article should create a home demand and thus vexatious losses, middlemen's profits, etc. etc., ad infinitum may be avoided. True, there are honest and reliable commission men and comb honey properly packed in shipping cases may be sent long distances and the loss thus reduced to a minimum but all things considered the producer of comb honey should sell in his own market, if he has one, if not he should create one.

Taking a general average of all the reports received the honey crops this year will fall greatly below the average. This taken in connection with the fact that Canada imports more honey than she produces should cause stiff prices to rule. Don't be in too great a hurry to sell and when you do sell, see that you get a good price.

## My First Experience With A "Wells" Hive.

Last autumn I, like many more, had the "Wells" craze on, and I thought I should like to try it, so I made a hive to take twenty-two frames in the brood nest, and stocked this from two hives that had queens of '93, besides plenty of bees and stores. I packed them well down for winter, and in the spring of this year stimulated them with syrup and the bees increased very fast—indeed, so fast, that by the middle of May I was obliged to give them a super of