

for the cost of retailing, and in that way offer some inducement to those who came into greater contact with the consumer.

#### RIPENING HONEY.

It was pointed out that many bee-keepers were keeping bees and did not secure the best results from them because they did not give the bees sufficient room in the surplus compartment. When only one-half story was given the hive, the bees whilst finishing those sections had to go idle, whilst if two half stories were placed on the hive, the bees could be finishing the top tier whilst storing the fresh honey in the lower. In this way there would be no loss of honey through the bees being idle, and there would be less tendency to swarm.

With extracted honey the same. When only one upper story is used, the bees have to remain idle whilst ripening the honey, or the bee-keeper has to extract before the honey is in a proper condition. By using two upper stories the same plan would work as in the comb honey. It was agreed by one or two that the honey could be ripened after leaving the hive, but it was a difficult matter to prove that any benefit would be derived from such a plan. It was admitted the bees would gather no more honey, and it appears only reasonable that, if plenty of room is given, the bees can themselves do this at the least expense. With this added room the bees are kept in a more contented condition and will be less liable to swarm, a very important matter in securing the best results.

#### CANADIAN HONEY.

The triumphs of Canadian honey could, at such a convention, of course not be passed by in silence. Not only did Canadian comb honey score the highest at Chicago, but a Canadian firm (Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd.) took more awards in the aparian department than any other firm. Some of the firms with which they entered into competition claim, and doubtless justly, to do one half a million dollars' worth of business, in bee-keepers' supplies and honey, per annum. That Canadian bee-keeping is only in its infancy there is no doubt. In Canada about 200,000 colonies of bees are kept, whilst some European countries keep 1,600,000 colonies, and quite a number keep over 500,000.

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IMPORTANCE OF PHOSPHATES. — The phosphates, like the nitrates, are found everywhere in the soil and are of great value in their relations to plants. The phosphates found in the bones are taken into the animal body in the food. All plants used as food contain small quantities of phosphorus compounds which they get from the soil. The phosphates taken into the body are partly given off in the excrement and urine.