

cial to the best interest of the shipper. It will inspire a want of confidence and eventually lose him his trade. Honesty in packing is the best course to follow, even if begotten in no higher motive than one of policy. What is said of grade one is equally applicable to grade two.

Sorting completed, the next consideration is the kind and character of the cases in which it is to be packed. These should be neat and well made. They should be glassed in front and open at the back with a slide, after the fashion of a match or starch box. This is much preferable to having the slide on top. When opened at the back and glassed in front the purchaser has a full view of fully one-half the contents. When open on top he can only look down on the wood in which the honey is stored. A good deal has been written lately on the most desirable size of the comb case. Most people favor the one dozen section comb case. In my judgment they should never exceed that capacity. Experience has taught me that half dozen cases are better in every way. They preserve the honey better in transit than larger cases. They cost the bee-keeper no more, because they sell for a better price. They make double the display on a grocer's counter, and sell more readily. This is the way I now put up most of my comb honey.

Sorting and packing completed, preparation or shipment is the next thing to engage attention. There are but two ways of doing this: enclosing the section cases in outer cases, and sending them forward without any outside protection. When enclosed the outside cases should be strong and neat, and contain not more than six one dozen comb cases, or twelve half-dozen cases. If the outer cases are properly made no packing material such as straw, sawdust, and the like, need be used. This statement may take some people by surprise, but there is nothing haphazard about it. I believe I was the first man in America to adopt this method of packing comb. When going to the Colonial Exhibition in 1886 I wished to add more comb to my own contribution than I had in stock. I purchased 1,000 from Mr. Alpaugh of St. Thomas, in one dozen section cases. I instructed him to pack them in outer cases of six dozen each, without any packing material whatever, and he did the packing as instructed, shipping it by rail to my address at Toronto, about 100 miles. Here it was reshipped by rail to Montreal, 333 miles. It was there put on board the steamer and carried to Liverpool, where it was transhipped by rail to London, 205 miles, and when opened out, there were but half a dozen damaged sections in the lot. This was surely a sufficiently severe test.

But I have almost entirely discarded outer cases when shipping comb. The plan I usually follow is to put three comb cases together, one on top of the other. I wrap each case in straw paper, cutting out that part of the paper opposite the glazed front. I then bind these three cases together with common lath and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch screw nails, putting two pieces diagonally across the glazed front. This ensures careful handling, and everybody who handles them sees just what they are handling. I send honey to the North-west Territories every year in this form by boat and rail, over 1,000 miles from my home, and I have never yet had one case reported as damaged in transit.

Perhaps no industry in the land is so much abused in this respect as bee-keeping. We are wont to hear bee-keepers speak of themselves as an exceptionally intelligent class. Be this as it may, I am free to say that the product of no other industry is put upon the market in such a cumbersome, uncouth and slovenly form. What is the best package to ship honey in? is frequently asked, and from nearly all the tin shops and supply establishments comes the ready response, "The sixty pound screw cap can," and so the sixty pound screw cap goes out by the thousand to the great annoyance of the dealer to whom they are a positive nuisance, if he retails it from them. I once watched a store-keeper serve a customer with two pounds of candied honey taken out of one of these tins through the hole on the top. His wrists and knuckles were daubed with honey to such an extent, and evidently felt so uncomfortable, that it would be surprising if he ever had another one in his shop. Not until bee-keepers supply the dealer with wares as neatly done up and as convenient to handle as are preserved fruit or canned vegetables, will honey become a staple article on their shelves. Now-a-days honey is sold, both as a medicine and as food, in quantities ranging from half a pound to forty or fifty pounds. Both extremes, however, are the exceptions. From one to twenty pounds is the rule; hence packages ranging from one to twenty pounds are the proper packages in which to do it up. In my trade I use glass bottles—wide-mouthed—with cork stoppers, or screw tops ranging from one-half pound to four pounds, and square tins the capacity of which varies from five pounds to forty pounds; but my staple tins hold seven pounds and twenty pounds, the one to retail at one dollar and the other at two dollars and a half. With my tins a man can fill any order without too much value being in the empties. My seven pound tins are packed in cases holding eight each, and my twenty pound tins in cases holding three each. My tins are so made that when packed each occupies a separate compartment. The upper part of their rims and top of the cork are exactly flush with the top of the case, so that when the lid is fastened down it presses evenly upon all. I will guarantee these tins and their contents to carry safely to Hong Kong and back, whether they be top or bottom up, or end up.

R. McKnight.

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