

board, and then run down its surface before the wax cools, leave behind them a thin track, which also becomes a weak part in the sheet. The edges of the sheets, unless well pared, are also thinner than the rest, and may lead to a fracture of the sheet close to the top bar. All such faults can easily be observed by holding the sheet between the eye and a window. Those that are right are uniform in texture and thickness, and show no flaws.

If the sheets are dipped too thin they do not contain enough wax to fill the grooves in the rollers that form the cell walls, and an important element of strength is thus lost. The mid-rib may be excessively thin, and yet no harm result if the side walls be fully raised. A glance along the surface of the sheet, between the eye and the light, will reveal any such deficiency. We find we can make perfect sheets on the original Root machine that weigh seven to the pound, standard size, though on the later machine only five or six can be got.

3. Breakdowns may also occur from insecure fixing in the frame, from an accidental crack got in handling the sheets when too cold, or in moving the hive or box containing them; allowing the temperature of the hive to reach an abnormal height; or in trusting to the sheets alone to support the weight of a large swarm during very hot weather. This brings us to consider the most profitable way to make use of this modern aid to bee-keeping.

Use with Swarms.—Presuming that ordinary sheets are used without wire or other supports caution must be observed. It may be the swarm is a large one from a supered stock, or a double swarm, in which case it will require the whole of the usual ten frames of space. If worked out combs be available, they should then be used alternately with wax sheets. Otherwise, the whole of the frames may have full sheets, and the following precautions used. 1st.—Have the new hive, with all its frames in position, located and levelled on the stand it is to occupy before introducing the swarm. 2nd.—Introduce the swarm, towards evening, by casting it down in front and allowing the bees to run in at the doorway; all this to save jarring, and to bring the weight of bees to bear gradually on the sheets. 3rd.—Leave the whole doorway open and the front slightly tilted till all the bees are settled inside, and have only a single thin quilt laid over the frames, enough to confine the bees below and yet allow of perfect ventilation. 4th.—In three days or so turn the three or four outer combs so as to counteract the tendency towards having them drawn towards the centre of the hive, and to ensure their being equally worked out on both sides

Similar precautions should be used even with small swarms; with the addition that after the bees are quietly clustered inside they should have a loose-fitting division board inserted, so as to confine them at first to as many frames as they can conveniently work on at once, more room being given as the first sheets are found to be thoroughly drawn out.

(To be concluded.)

Skunks Eating Bees.

JOSHUA THOMAS, of the first con., Luther had 28 or 30 hives of bees destroyed by skunks during last winter. Henry Thomas, who lives near his father, also lost 13 hives in the same manner. The skunks got into the place where the hives were wintered and then ate their way through the covering into the hives and ate the bees, but did not take away any of the honey or comb. Most of Henry Thomas' bees were destroyed since spring, the skunks' plan in his case being to make a noise in front of the hives and arouse the bees and then devour them as they came out. Mr. Thomas trapped five of the skunks. The loss of the Messrs. Thomas will be about \$300.—Dufferin Post.

SPECIAL - OFFER

... FOR ...

New Subscribers.

Any person sending us the name of one new subscriber with \$1. for a year's subscription will receive their choice of the following articles viz :—1 Lightning Bee Escape 20 c., 1 Porter Bee escape 20 c., Clarke's Birds Eye View of Bee Keeping and three D. A. Jones' Pamphlets 25c., $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of pure Beta Naphthol 40 c.

For two subscribers with \$2. 1 Alleys' Drone and Queen trap combined 50.

For four subscribers with \$4. choice of following viz.,—No. 2. Smoker \$1.25, Honey Knife \$1., Frame Nailer \$1.25.

For eight subscribers with \$8. 1 Section press \$2. Bee Tent put together not covered \$2.