

for a defence of "contraction," but how to furnish the bees with sufficient stores for winter, when contraction is practiced, without resorting to feeding. When there is a fall flow of honey, of course no feeding will be needed. But, supposing there is no fall harvest, what shall be done? If nearly all of the white honey has been forced into the supers, and no more honey can be gathered, of course, stores must be furnished. But how? That's the next question. At the time when we wrote our little book; "*The Production of Comb Honey*," we advocated the feeding of granulated sugar, in the fall, to any colonies lacking stores. We still prefer sugar as a winter food for bees, but its higher price combined with the lower price of honey has compelled us to take our chances with natural stores. In our little book, page 31, is the following:—

"Those who for any reason do not wish to use sugar, may still take advantage of this system by putting the unfinished sections back in the hive in time for the honey to be carried down and stored in the brood nest for winter. Any sealed honey in the unfinished sections must be uncapped before placing them on the hives. As some may ask what is to be gained by this management, I will explain that the number of finished sections is increased thereby; in other words, it enables us to virtually exchange the honey in our unfinished sections for nearly its weight in finished sections, leaving us the combs to give the bees a good 'send off' in the spring. and, in my experience, sections filled with comb are nearly as valuable in the spring as sections filled with honey."

Another plan is that of putting a set of combs on over the supers as the harvest draws to a close. In other words, instead of putting on another case of sections, when the harvest is past its height, put on a set of brood combs, and let them be filled. This will practically do away with unfinished sections, and; in the fall, the combs of honey can be given the bees in exchange for their empty combs.

In his reply to the query, Mr. G. W. Demaree says that, if sugar is fed for winter stores, a part of it will be carried from the brood nests into the sections the next spring. Mr. Demaree is mistaken. Sugar fed in the fall is used up in brood rearing long before sections are put on. Not only this, but the honey gathered from fruit, bloom, maple and dandelion is put to the same use. Sections are not put on until the yield begins from white clover, and, in our experience, honey when stored in the hive below never finds its way into the sections. We have often wintered bees on buckwheat honey, but never knew any of it to be carried into sections the next year.

### That Foundation Matter

SINCE writing what appeared on page 218, we have received a letter from R. E. Smith, in which he states that they have had two men all summer making comb, who went to work when the first sheet was run, and stayed until the last sheet was made, then goes on to say:

"You or any one can have them sworn about the comb. As I said the last was made out of old comb. I ran the wax out with a wax extractor, dipped the comb, and ran it through the mill, so if there is paraffine in it, there must be paraffine in the old combs, as it was all made on foundation comb. The two, as I said before, were with us all the time we made comb, and they can be sworn any time, or any question asked that you like, and if it ain't just as I say I will give you \$50.00, and that is all I can do. You say that you never got samples of comb, I got your letter saying that it was fine comb. We are willing to have any man come here and take the oath of these two who have worked all the time with us making comb, and if it is not just as we say we will pay all cost. They know all about the wax, and if you don't believe me, then come and see for yourself, for if the last combs we made were not all right, then the old combs melted up were not right: that the only fault we heard from the last comb, as I got a letter to-night, saying the last comb was all O. K. The 1,500 lbs. of first sent out was bought 1888; and made half from Ekerman & Will, the other half from old box hives. You talk just so that we are to blame of the whole thing. Now, just stop and think one minute and see where we are running ourselves to. You know that we have been in the bee business for twenty years or more, and never had the like before, and that is not all. To do as you say would ruin our whole trade in bees and supplies. We ship bees by the pound, queens and all kinds of supplies, and never had any trouble before. and to do as you say any one would know that our trade would be ruined if we had done as you say. Would we offer to pay and make right with them where we have it all to lose ourselves. No, but we stand ready to do what is right, and that is more than you want to do with us. I shall pay every one what is right. Let them do as they would like to be done with if they was in the same fix. We got to lose all our work, cash and wax, which is no small item.

R. E. SMITH.

Tilbury Centre, Aug. 11, '90.

Let us assure you that we want to do all that is fair and right with you, and for the credit of the fraternity we should be only too glad if you could clear yourselves entirely from suspicion of having adulterated the wax sent out. You do not deny but that you have supplied your customers with adulterated foundation, and in the face of this fact your expla-