

hives and fixtures. Mr. Pickett is a very modest man, but is a successful and rising apiarist, and is looked on as an authority in bee culture in this part of the country.

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A New Packing.

FOR the winter packing of hives on their summer stands, leaves cork, shavings, sawdust, etc., are sometimes expensive, are hard to come at, and sawdust especially is objectionable if there is much dampness, on account of its affinity for water. I have been using paper for some years with satisfaction. It is light, keeps well, does not get damp, and retains the heat,—not building paper wrapped around, and placed over the hives,—but surplus paper of any kind, such as old newspapers, catalogues, pamphlets, etc., of which there is often an abundance. I use some newspapers spread over the top and tucked around the sides, with the rest. Take a leaf at a time, crumple it in the hand so as to make as large a wad as possible. Squeeze it and it will retain its size when packing. It takes but little paper to make a bushel of wads, and but little time to make them. I pack between the cases in the usual way; for convenience I make sacks the right size to lay on top. There is no dust or dirt.

SMALL ENTRANCES.

When zero weather comes I fill the entrances full of old newspapers, except about one half inch square, and leave it until late in the spring. If the bees want more room they remove some paper. I find they are quieter so; perhaps from the protection from changes of temperature. My winter loss has not averaged one per cent. for years.

TRANSFERRING THEMSELVES.

From having bought bees in boxes, queens, etc., or for other reasons, it is often necessary to transfer—a sticky disagreeable job, attended with loss of honey, bees (young and old), time and often temper. It is a job I have turned over to the bees; they can do it, as well as many other things, better than I can. Having prepared the new hive with comb, or foundation, I make a five-eighths inch hole in the top board; over this I place the hive to be transferred, fasten it securely, stop all egress from it except through the above five-eighths inch hole, and do about my business. When the honey flow begins, the bees will move down into the new hive, and as soon as the last brood above hatches, the old hive can be removed. There will be some honey, a few bees and a lot of

nice comb. Set it a hundred feet or so from the apiary; arrange a small entrance, and let the bees clean it out. If possible, stack several hives on top of each other, with one entrance.

If I am to get a large share of the good things of this world, I can not spare the time necessary to do all these things. I must use short cuts and quick ways, and put my time in where it pays the best, owing to its uncertain returns. Honey production must be a side issue with all but a few; how to get the most money out of it, under these circumstances, is the question.

Under this head comes the consideration of

SELF HIVERS.

I cannot afford to use from two to four weeks' time watching for swarms, and it does not pay to let them run off. The general idea is that self hivers require a lot of special appliances, considerable skill and extra expense, all of it on an already over-burdened business. This is not the case. It is very simple, and but little extra is required.

Prepare the new hive as for a swarm; raise up the old hive that is expected to swarm; place the new hive under it. Between them place a honey board, in which has been fitted a bee escape—any kind will do. If you do not use honey boards, use an escape board, first having put a few square inches of perforated zinc in it. If you don't use escapes, get some; they pay. Place a strip of zinc over the entrance to the new hive, and there you are.

When they swarm, the queen necessarily goes below, stays there, and when the swarm returns the new hive is occupied. Queen cells will be built above, which you can use if you need them. Their presence, or the absence of eggs, shows that a swarm has issued. If increase is wanted, remove the old hive to a new location; all the old bees and part of the young ones will constitute a booming swarm at the old location; place another new hive under the old one, at the new location, with the escape between, the young queen will go down to be fertilized, will occupy the lower portion, will not swarm again, because of so much room, and in time will give about fifty pounds of extracted honey in the upper part, which is about that much more than you will get if you put on supers.

The swarm at the old location will give the honey, especially if the old hive is left on it until lots of young bees have hatched out. See that they have surplus room.

If no increase is wanted, place empty supers between the hives, on top of the honey board;