

the system cannot do without and we need not marvel that it is of such value, especially to those in feeble health. This is a question worth studying from many standpoints and it is to be hoped we will send to Europe especially only honey about which there loiters no shadow of doubt as to the high standard of its merits.

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### REVERSIBLE FRAMES, ETC.

SEE that the reversible hives and frames are going ahead lively in the States, but I hope there is not one bee-keeper in Canada that will accept the reversible frames or hives. I have read all the articles written in favor of the reversible frames and hives that I can get, and as yet I have failed to see where a man can gain anything by them. Now for protection, both to the bees and the honey market, I can see at a glance that as soon as a comb is inverted, if there is honey in it and a super on top, the honey will be all carried up into the super. Now this is what some men know about the honey harvest. I sold a queen to a man in this place last summer, and about the first of October, I called on him to see how his bees were for winter. I told him that they were too light. O but, says he, they will get lots of honey yet. So you see some men do not know when the honey flow begins or when it stops, and wonder from spring till fall why their bees do not fill up the super, even in a poor season, and if they had a reversible hive, they would be turning it heels over head, and get the bees to put the last pound of honey that was in the hive up into the super, and then they would snatch it off and think they had done wonders—the very honey the bees should have had for their winter use. There are other men that know when the honey flow begins and when it stops, who would take all the honey their bees could gather, if they could get them to put it into the super by the reversible system, and would feed sugar syrup instead, whereas if they had an unreversible hive, the honey that is in the brood apartment will go into winter quarters with the bees. For almost every bee-keeper knows how unpleasant it is to go into the brood nest to extract the honey that is there after the honey season is over; there is sure to be plenty of brood in the combs, and what honey is there has been capped so long that it is hard to get out, and, as a rule, it is not of a very good quality. Besides, you will have thousands of robber bees after you; if you use a tent, the robbers will hang around till you leave the hive, when they will try to see what they

can get. After a man extracts a few hives, he will come to the conclusion to let the rest have for winter use what is in the hive. So you see that by one system, the honey that is in the hives will go into winter quarters with the bees, and that by the other—the reversible—system, it will probably go on the market, and sugar will go into the hives instead. I have never used a reversible frame, but we have testimonials from those who have used them, saying that the bees will store nearly all the honey in the super. Now, if this be the case, I will start at home and see what it will amount to. In the fall of 1884, I moved to this place, and into the cellar of the house I was living in, I put 57 colonies of bees. It was cold and damp, and there was no way of warming it, so that my bees came out rather weak; although I did not lose one colony in winter quarters. I lost some by spring dwindling. I started the season of 1885 with 50 colonies, increased to 119; and I got about 2000 lbs. of extracted honey, some of which I fed back to hives that were rather light. My 119 colonies went into winter quarters last fall with 25 lbs. of honey each on an average. Now, if I had used a reversible hive and had got all of that, I would have had about 3,000 lbs. more to have done something with; if I fed it back, it would not hold out; if I sold it, the money would scarcely replace it with sugar, by the time you deduct what will be used up in storing it into the hive. So you see that by one system I put about 1,800 lbs. in the market, and that by the other system, I could have put about 5,000 lbs. on the market. So that if the bee-keepers of Canada adopt the reversible system and sell all the honey they can get, you see what amount of honey will be thrown on the market every fall that should have gone into winter quarters with the bees, thousands and tens of thousands of lbs. If they keep it off the market and feed it back, they will lose by the transaction; then where does the benefit come in? If there is a man than can not get his frames full of brood without reversing them, let him adopt Mr. J. E. Pond's method, on page 56 of the present volume of the *American Bee Journal*, and not be turning the dirty black edge of the comb up next the supers for the bees to travel on from one to the other, thus spoiling the appearance of your nice white sections. If there is a man that can not get enough honey to supply his market, without getting a reversible hive and turning it heels over head and robbing the bees of the stores they had capped over so nicely for winter use, then let him get it from some man that has it, and sell it on commission. If there is a man that can not get his bees to fill his frames full of