

Mr. Hoshal is evidently writing from practical experience. We vividly recall to mind the sprinkling of new honey some times shaken out, but in this locality that condition of affairs is nearly always coupled with no desire to rob on the part of the bees.

Yes, the contraction system, invented by Oatmen Bros., and first published and long practiced by me, as you well know, Mr. Editor, is a most practical and profitable manipulation. The divisible brood chamber stands in relation to this practice as does an engine to the profitable use of steam. Certainly it is a peculiar circumstance that Bro. Hoshal's swarms should desert the small brood apartment supplied by the use of one brood case only. Such has not been the case here, nor has it in any way marked the hundreds of reports received, while at the same time it will be remembered that in many apiaries this feature is tested by the use of the new hive by the side of others, none of which embrace this new feature. Right here, allow me to remark, that if your bees are building combs from starters only, this empty under-case arrangement is more than worth the extra labor resulting from its use, from the fact that it tends strongly toward the production of worker instead of drone comb. For this fact I am indebted to W. B. Sutherd, of Kalamazoo, Mich.


Mr. Hoshal mentions our ability to handle the bees the season throughout, fully accomplishing all that is needed or useful to us, without the necessity of removing a single wood frame. Just here, allow me to say, that this thought was the fore-runner and parent to the invention, and all hive mechanical applications which accomplish it.

I trust that it will be remembered that nearly all of the points discussed by Bro. Hoshal, in his clear and comprehensive article on page 439, as well as the thoughts contained above, are embodied in two chapters of my book published in 1886, immediately after the issuing of my patents, yet is a fact that most of your readers have never seen that book, and many, no doubt, never will. Let it be remembered that nearly all the alleged "new systems" are nothing more or less than a mongrelized rebash of my inventions of that time. I trust your readers will forgive the plainness of the above statement, on the ground of its self evident truth.

JAMES HEDDON.

Dowagiac, Mich., March, 1891.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL,
Apicultural Items—Weighing Sections
With the Comb.

 YOU seem very much troubled over this matter, all for nothing. When a package or wrapper is necessary, it has to be paid for somehow, and "custom" decides the

manner of the paying. Thus if the weight of section is deducted, a higher price will be demanded for the honey, also when propolis is cleared off, the sections command a better price or a better sale, or it would certainly be left on. Over here a vast quantity of foreign and British products are bought and sold by weight, just as they are—even tea—neither custom house, broker, or merchant, opening and weighing the nett contents. The fact is, the average nett weight of every package is known and the contents are guessed at, or taken as so much. In some things the nett weight of contents are marked in the package. I don't suppose that any Briton puts more than a fire-wood value on any package he buys, but for all that he knows quite well he has to pay its full value or it would not pay the packers to send them. No! there is nothing immoral or dishonest in weighing wooden sections in, any more than the wax combs, and none but those with cross-eyed-common-sense would think otherwise. There is a custom amongst some I must condemn; which is, selling sections at so much each, or per doz., which is a great injustice to buyer and honest seller. For instance, one man has a lot of sections that average 12 oz. each, he calls them "one pound sections," and sells them at so much each, another man, whose sections average 16 oz. or more each, is run down in the price of his, because he is told about the price "1 lb.," sections are selling for. I know, in many places, that all $4\frac{1}{2}$ sq. sections are called "one pound," no matter what they weigh. So, if sections were sold entirely by weight, all would be on a level. These light weights do much harm, as many buyers think they are lbs., or must be, or why the name, and when they get home and find the sections weigh 10 oz. or less, they feel disgusted and are ready to believe all kinds of tales about bogus honey combs, and bogus bee-keepers, who have educated their bees to such a fine point as to fill in 10 oz. to the pound.

DESTROYING SURPLUS BEES.

I am surprised to see you still troubled over this matter: why not work them up into honey as I suggested? and the way that I do, I never have more bees than I want; they are doubled up for the heather harvest, and they then replace themselves in the shape of honey.

THE WINTER PROBLEM.

Mr. G. B. Jones, on page 311, Nov. 1, seems very much conoed on this matter, says: "The problem is not solved." I guess it is, and that I have solved it, and I am surprised to see him say different after what I have said.