

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

DEEP OR SHALLOW FRAMES.

HAVING seen the remarks of C. W. Demaree, page 308, of the C. B. J., I am induced to add my experience with the two frames. While in California we never used the L. frame at all, but what we called the square frame; but still it was not square, inside measure $15\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, this frame I might say was almost the universal frame used in southern California, the L. being the great exception if used at all. We are now using almost the same size frame here only one-eighth shorter and one quarter inch shallower, being 15×10 inside. We have 600 hives for this sized frame, and 100 of standard L. hives, and need I say that our deeper frame has by far the greatest preference, for our country here, and if this is so in a hot climate, where does the L. frame find its friends? May I answer the question according to my idea. I shall say that it is among the great number of apiarists in the United States that produce comb honey, owing to the large space for box honey right near to the brood. The ten frame L. hive. I should think, would possess advantages that a deeper frame in a hive with less space on top would. But this is mere assertion, for I know but little about the producing of comb honey, having made a specialty of extracted for the last ten years. Now, let us see why we prefer a deep frame for extracted. First, we can get our bees stronger in this climate, for the comb has more brood surface, and in shape that the queens can occupy more of it. Second, there is more room for sufficient honey to carry the colony over a short or long dearth in the honey flow, and does not put the apiarist to so much trouble and anxiety to look at each and every colony to see if they have honey, if he has extracted all they had in the top box. Third, the comb being larger, holds more honey, which facilitates work, and the amount of honey the apiarist has when his days work is done. Fourth, a shorter and deeper frame is handled on the uncapping table and in the extractor with greater speed, than the L. frame. Fifth, they are not as liable to break out while extracting as the L., because a short and deep frame the comb will be fastened in better, for the reason that unless the colony is very strong when hived on the L. frame, the combs will not be as securely fastened as the shorter frame, for the ends being so far removed from the centre, do not receive sufficient heat so the bees can properly work the wax to make them solid, while the shorter frame possesses these advantages. Such is my experience with the two frames, which will not be a great recommend for the short, or any disparag-

ment to the long one. And I cannot do better than repeat the opinion of many of our best and longest experienced men. That my experience is only my own and applicable only to the location of which I speak, and don't you think that apiarists, as a class, should be sensible of the fact that their own location should be the standpoint from which they should base their calculation as to merit or demerit, of this, that, or the other, hive or implement used by them in modern bee-culture. Now, Friend Jones, you in your foot notes say, "We like a frame to hang in the extractor just the same as it does in the hive." I have never used such an extractor, and can only think what would be the inconvenience of such an arrangement, that it would necessitate the taking of the comb out of the extractor to turn it, while if the comb stands on the end, (and the cylinder of the extractor is as large as it should be), the comb is turned in the basket with all ease, saving time and labor, which are of the greatest importance when you are hurried with a big apiary and a continuous honey flow. What I say about extractors, etc., is my experience with them in large apiaries. I know comparatively nothing of the implements and management of small bee-yards. We are coming through the dearth in splendid shape, plenty of bees and plenty of honey.

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Of what you have said about deep and shallow frames we have long since been convinced, having tested them side by side for many years. We expected to hear you say also that bees would do more brooding in the deep and square frame than in the shallow long frame, which we have proved in this climate many times. As heat ascends, it will be readily seen that the few bees on the bottom of the comb will keep the brood warm to the top. We have also noticed what you mention about the comb being fastened at the sides, we never found that they broke out of the deep frames nearly as often as that of the deep ones. If you uncapped one of the combs and extract the honey from immediately over the cluster, keeping it by itself, then extract from the ends of the comb, you will find that that taken from the centre very much the richer, and