

one, and left so that a single screw on two sides would fasten them to the hives when ready to ship.

The bees were taken from the cave, or cellar, the last of February, and placed on summer stands for a cleansing flight; but the weather not being quite warm enough, only a few of them flew, although they were out over two weeks. March 11th the half stories were all placed under the hives, and fastened, except six colonies that began to fly before we could get around to them; and the afternoon of that day coming off very warm, those six colonies had a very thorough cleansing flight. I then thought those were in the best condition of any for the long trip, and I felt that, had I delayed my trip one day longer, it would have been very much better for all of the bees; but now every one of those six colonies is dead, and they were among the very best I had. This has been a very great surprise to me, as I believed with others that a cleansing flight just before starting them would be very beneficial to them.

On the 12th they were hauled to the depot, 16 miles, over one of the roughest roads one could imagine, and loaded in the car. At 8 a. m. of the 13th they were started, and reached here at 6 p. m. on the 21st, and were all unloaded before daylight of the next day, so that they had a flight on the 22nd, and seemed stronger than when I started with them. There were but a very few dead bees in each hive, and I fondly hoped I should be able to save very nearly all of them; but they very soon began to die off in large numbers, and the result has been as above stated. It will be some weeks or months yet before I can demonstrate whether or not it will pay me for the very great expense of the undertaking in removing my apiary to this place, while I have so many interests and cares that need my attention in Windham, N. Y., a little of which Ernest and wife saw while with us last season a few days.

O. R. COE.

Fort Collins, Col., May 26.

Gleanings.

Putting on Sections, Etc.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Will you please tell us in *Gleanings* just how we may know the right time to put on the sections or surplus arrangement to our hives, so that we may secure the best results in honey? I am a novice at the business, and should like to have you explain minutely in regard to this matter."

In the first place, I would say, that, if our correspondent does not have one of the many good bee-books of the present, he should at once procure one, and this will tell him more of the minutiae of bee keeping than is expected to be found in any article written for the press.

If we have our sections all in readiness to go on the hive, each having a nice starter in it, and all in the surplus arrangement, we have only to wait till the time is ripe for putting on the sections. If we are not thus in readiness, the first thing is to become so. I do all of this preparatory work during the winter months; and from past experience I would advise every one else to do the same thing, no matter if we do have a few more dollars invested in this way than we should just like, when not knowing how our bees will winter, or what the harvest will be. I find that, in the long run, this course pays much the best. Having them all in readiness we are to decide when to put them on the hives. To know just when to do this is often difficult; for, if put on too early, brood-rearing is materially retarded; and if put on while there is no honey coming in, although there may be plenty of bees so the brood does not suffer, these bees, not having any thing to do, will often go into the sections, and, apparently bent on mischief, will amuse themselves in gnawing down the foundation starters, thus causing a delay in entering the sections for work, when the harvest does arrive. The rule which was given me when I commenced bee-keeping was to put on the sections when the white clover came into bloom; and for the bee-keeper who uses box hives, or the one who never handles his frames to know what condition his bees are in, perhaps this is as good advice as can be given, although many hives may have sections put in them when the bees are so few in numbers that they may not enter the sections during the whole season. Most apiarists however, handle their frames, and know the condition of each hive, and can ascertain when the hive is full of brood, and bees are sufficiently plentiful to protect the brood after the sections are on, even if a cold snap should come, putting them on those that are thus ready, and leaving the weaker ones till they are ready also. To show what I mean, P. H. Elwood once wrote me that his bees were not in the shape that he wished them, about June 10; "for," said he, "about a third of them will be ready to take advantage of the clover: a third more, with the first third, will be ready for the basswood, while the remaining third will not be strong enough to work to advantage on anything but buckwheat." Don't you see what a waste it would have been to put