



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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OUR OWN APIARY.

SOMETHING MORE ABOUT THE COMBINATION HIVE.

WE promised readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL the experience of some who had used the combination hive. Accordingly we wrote to Mr. Geo. Laing, who was for some years foreman of our apiaries, but who last spring went into bee-keeping on his own account down near Milton, and who has had two years, practical experience, on a large scale, with these hives. His letter is so full of practical thoughts of value, that we publish it under this heading in its entirety. We may add that the hive, as now made has neither of the disadvantages which he mentions, and that the possibility of brace combs is therefore entirely done away with :

You wish to know what I think of the Jones comb honey hive and its superior qualities over the ordinary Jones hive. I think them superior in a great many ways, as they can be used entirely for either comb or extracted honey, just as the bee-keeper wishes. In the first place the Jones ordinary hive is too large, too deep and too long for either comb or extracted honey, and it is impossible to extract good ripe honey, having to extract from frames of brood and larvæ in all stages, as bees naturally store fresh gathered honey in the empty cells among the brood where bees have just hatched. My own experience tells me that we want a hive that we can winter bees, raise comb and extracted

honey, give early swarms, keep bees at work for profit, and to satisfy buyers of bees with hive full of bees and comb, and also a cheap hive. Now, I think the Jones comb honey hive just the hive wanted. Bee-keepers around Milton are beginning to like them, but I find them three-eighths of an inch too high at top of hive above top bars of frames when the wooden honey board is put on, causing bees to build cross combs between space. I would have frame level with top edge of hive and have bottom board one-half inch from the bottom bar, not one inch as it is now. It don't pay to have bees wasting time building comb on top of frames and under bottom bars of frames. I find large hives give late swarms and lots of bees when the honey season is over, causing so much feeding. Of late years I have part of my hives with loose bottom boards so I can use them for top story hives for extracting from, as I think best to extract only from top story as I don't like disturbing bees in lower story and causing them to lose about one day fixing up brood-chamber, licking honey off each other and so on. If the lower story should get too full of honey, I extract a card or two of honey to give a little room for queen to lay, just as I think proper. By extracting from top story you are more apt to leave them good winter stores, and more of it you can extract from lower story if you choose, and if you wish to go in for comb honey exclusively, you can use top story hive by putting on Vanduseon clamps for to fasten bottom board on and your hive is ready to put bees into, and then put on our supers with sections in and you have a good comb honey hive or combination hive. I am using some of Dr. Thom's hives, but think them too large, as bees