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WHOLE No
439

Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

(Continued from page 34.)

Mr. McEvoy: In the winter of 18 I put one-half of my bees in the cellar and the other half I packed left on the summer stand. In cases they had sealed stores. Here I had a very strong stock out. I brought it inside. They wintered pretty well in the cellar, I thought, and when I took them out as far as consuming the stores concerned, they had used rather little in the cellar.

Fixter: Did you weigh them?

McEvoy: No, but they didn't weigh quite enough. They seemed to consume more in the cellar than they did outside.

McKnight: I think yours is an extraordinary experience in that connection.

Darling: There are several things touched upon here and perhaps could give a little experience on the same line. In regard to wintering I have used sawdust and cork dust. I have not tried wintering in the cellar at all; I live where it is too warm near the North pole—but

for years I took off the procolised sheet and put on a cotton cushion filled with sawdust or cork dust (I brought the saw dust from the saw mill and the sash factory) and I fail to see very much difference in their effect, only I thought the sawdust from the saw mill was not quite as warm and the cork dust is a little dryer. There is so much evaporation from bees that if you take a little piece of lath and leave it lying on top of the cushion, without any cover on at all, if you lift that piece of lath up any time after it has been there a few hours there will be a wet spot on that cushion the size of that piece of lath. If nothing touches the cushion it is dry all winter long and the sawdust is dry. Lift the cushion and put your hand under it and it is warm and cosy on top of the sheet, if there is a sheet underneath.

I had formerly tight bottom boards and that is the reason I took off the procolised sheet. Lately I have taken off the bottom board, left the procolised sheet on, and put the cushion on; that allows no moisture to get through, but I raise up my hive at the front—I don't like going to the back to let them down—and I find that they winter just as well and better than they did without the procolised sheet and with the bottom board tight and there is no danger of there being any dampness above and my combs and bees are not as damp

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as they were when the boards were fastened.

Somebody said if the temperature was right there would be no moisture in the hives. That has been a matter that I have never satisfactorily solved in my locality. Some of the hives, and not the strongest ones either, will be nice and dry while others will be so wet that the water will drip out of the entrance when the bottom boards are fastened. I can find the difference but I can not tell the reason why.

Mr. McKnight: How do you tier them up?

Mr. Darling: I have trestles 2 x 4 and I tier them up three tiers, one on top of the other.

Mr. McKnight: Have you experienced any difference in the bees coming out of the top row as compared with the bottom?

Mr. Darling: I can't find much difference. I find sometimes if it happens to be a little warmer the top row don't winter quite as well as the bottom. I find about 45 degrees is the best temperature to winter in.

You can see my bees and there is not a bee flying out. They seem to be very much satisfied with what they have now. My cellar is dry enough to sweep it every day of the year, and it is built in clay; there is no rock or sand. The heat of the house above keeps any frost from coming in from the outside. The house is never banked. The cellar window on the south-west side of the cellar frequently has neither glass nor wire screen in it but perhaps some boards thrown over the outside and the snow will sometimes blow in on them, and I have noticed when the sun comes out a little there will be an air hole through the snow in February.

With regard to the amount of stores consumed inside and out, I used to weigh my bees in the cellar and weigh them out again and I found

they varied a good deal. Some colonies would weigh only about five pounds less when going out than they did when coming in and some would vary from ten to twelve pounds.

Mr. Post: I never thought there was nearly the amount of difference that a great many imagine. I find in my mine that winter in the chaff hives have just as much honey in the spring as those in the cellar and hold out just as long in the season—their honey holds out just as well after the spring sets in.

Mr. McEvoy: Mr. McKnight says that mine was an exception to the rule, consuming more inside than out. As a general rule it is. It all depends upon the constitution of the colonies and how they are prepared for wintering. I want them to go into winter with sealed stores. Outside they do not begin to brood until towards spring, but if the cellar is rather warm brooding begins and they consume more on that account and I have just as much and in fact more outside than I would have had in the cellar. Just shut off the brooding and it saves the stores.

Mr. Gemmel:—Have you found this brooding up in the cellar an advantage?

Mr. McEvoy: Positively no.

Mr. Miller: I fancy there is a point in regard to the consumption of stores that we are losing sight of. I find that bees wintered in the cellar after being set out waste their stores as it were. They are breeding up and fly more continuously and independent of the weather, than bees that have wintered out on the stands and at that time they are consuming stores more rapidly. I find the difference between the two rather in favor of outdoor wintering, by the time the bees are in condition for the honey flow.

Mr. Darling: There is another point there. I am not prepared to say how much moisture the hives contained when they were set in and when they were put out. It might be that had considerable to do with the lesser or greater variation.

Mr. Pettit: You have that cushion on each hive?

Mr. Darling: On each hive.

Mr. Pettit: You find that an advantage?

Mr. Darling: I prefer it.

Mr. Pettit: There is not so much moisture in the hive as if there was no cushion?

Mr. Darling: No; it doesn't condense there.

Mr. Pettit's father gave me the idea of setting my bees in. I set my bees in and there is an inch more under the back of the board than there is at the front; then I put another inch under the hive front; that brings the hive up level again; when I put a short block right on the front corner and another on the back corner and an inch piece across that so that it leaves a space big enough to put my fist right in between the tier of hives. It is a long strip we used to get when we bought shavings from the saw mill. I put a two inch piece behind and double that piece and that gives my rise at the back of the board, and then I move the block under the front corner again and that brings it up and it makes the tops of my hives level.

Mr. Post: By projecting up the top of the hives wouldn't it be easier for the bees to throw out their dead bees.

Mr. Darling: The bottom boards project and that allows the dead bees to pop out themselves.

Mr. Hall: I think if Mr. Darling noticed those hives covered with

the cushion and those simply covered with the board and raised either the front or the rear he would find no difference so far as the dryness of the hive is concerned. If the hive is raised an inch or an inch and a half in front it gives ventilation to two sides and the front. Nothing touches the bottom board but the back of the hive. There are no bees left on the bottom board.

Speaking of how to raise your hives, we use no strips; we want each tier of hives to be independent of its neighbors and we pack ours four deep and when we disturb one four we don't disturb their neighbors. I would advise those of the gentlemen who are afraid of the bees flying very much to simply use a wet towel; they fit tightly and they won't blow off or won't shift. That is the nicest way to take them off.

Mr. McKnight: How do you get up to the fourth tier in putting in and taking out?

Mr. Hall: One takes hold of the front and another the back part of the bottom board and we set them onto a hand barrow. I have a clamp on all of my hive bottoms and we fasten the hive to the bottom board by a clamp.

Mr. McKnight: I have found difficulty with three tiers.

Mr. Hall: You are a short man (laughter). We put ours up four tiers and we would put them up five but the cellar is not high enough.

Mr. Post: Mine are six inches from the cellar bottom.

Mr. McKnight: I would not like to lift bees four tiers high in putting them into the cellar.

Mr. Hall: Ours are within two inches of the joists under our dwelling room and if it was a foot higher we would put on five instead of four.

Mr. Dickenson: You wouldn't advise that if you had the room.

Mr. Hall: I fill up one corner of the cellar and leave the rest of the cellar for other use.

Mr. Dickenson: You would still put them up?

Mr. Hall: Certainly. Then you have got the other part of your cellar for other uses.

QUESTION BOX.

Q. What is the best method of marketing comb and extracted honey?

Mr. Hall: The best method of marketing anything is find a customer who desires the article. If you find a man that wants it he will pay you the best price. If you cannot find him you had better retain your article. I find the best way to retain your customers is to put your article up in a marketable shape, so that it will not give them any trouble. I will give you an illustration. Last fall, or in the early winter, a firm from Rat Portage wanted me to place their order for three hundred crates of comb honey and some extracted, and one reason, they said, that we want to secure your honey is because we like the way you put up your goods. It is not the quality of the goods at all. That did not give them any trouble, but the goods they had got from other parties were broken down, messy and sticky, and our goods were clean. They could handle them with satisfaction, therefore they wanted to place the order. They wrote me again this season for comb honey, and I had to tell them it was too late. Therefore, I say the best way to market any goods is to find your customers, and give them something that they cannot, no matter how they try, find fault with.

Mr. Smith: It is the practice with many bee-keepers in handling extracted honey to run it into pails when it

is newly extracted, and just store it and market it as the market calls for it. I find that the pails which have been filled and which lie around for some time are not in as nice a looking condition to supply to a customer as they are when the honey is freshly put into them. What is your experience?

Mr. Hall: I sell but precious little honey in small quantities except to those who come to the house. My favorite plan is to let the honey ripen in the hive before taking it, put it through my extractor, and the same day put it into the sixty pound tins and screw them down tightly and not let the atmosphere in; it will then retain the aroma as well as the sweetness of the honey. They come to me and want some of my choicest clover honey, and sometimes I haven't any. I give them a taste of the honey I have, and they say, "That is the nicest clover honey I ever tasted." I let them take it and think as they please. Do not be too particular explaining what it is. Everyone wants thistle honey, and all pronounce it beautiful clover honey. If I told them it was thistle honey they would begin to cavil, and I could not supply them, and, therefore, I do not say anything about it,

Q: What if the best form of hive stand?

Mr. Hall: I would not like to answer that question; if I did I would have somebody shying a brick at me. I can tell you the hive stand I use. I use four half bricks. I have in the apiary some of the Hedden hive stands, but if I was making them I wouldn't use that kind. I use four half bricks. They don't rot themselves and don't rot your hives. I wouldn't like to say that it is the best form of stand; but that is the stand I prefer. They stay there all winter and do not crack much.

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they stand one winter they will stand fifty.

Mr. Darling: If you get those that are next the flue inside and which have become somewhat vitrified they will not take in the water.

Mr. Hall: They are the cheapest stand you can get. When I sit down to work at the hive my toes will go underneath, and if I stand up, my toes will go underneath; and the air will go in.

Mr. Fixter: Do the toads get under them?

Mr. Hall: Yes. We used to try to kill them, but I think it is better to let the poor creatures alone now.

Mr. Sibbald: I was out one night with a lantern, and a large toad came along. The lantern attracted the bees and I saw them perform. The toad just seemed to open its mouth, and I saw him consume about seventeen bees in a few minutes.

Mr. Smith: Do you find the bottom board warp at all with the bricks?

Mr. Hall: It is the best preventative you can find.

Mr. Evans: Wouldn't a stand with a sloping board of some kind that the bees could crawl up when they fall to the ground be better so that they will not get lost in the grass?

Mr. Hall: They do not want to crawl up. If they do they can crawl up the brick. Once a week at least

cut the grass. Our bees are in camps of four. We do not have to

use a sickle where the bees are settling; we just put down a little salt

and that kills everything, and we have no trouble. We just run the

lawn mower crosswise, and with the

becks you can go right up to the

bees.

Mr. Fixter: I might explain the stand we use. It is made with inch

and a half strips the length of the

hive, and we nail an inch strip across

there about four inches off the ground

for a lighting board; it is made on a slant and it comes right to the entrance of the hive; it is very neat in appearance and nothing can get under the hive. We mow our grass but we cannot get close to the hive, so we put salt around or cut it short with the shears.

Mr. Post: My strips are nailed on top of the side pieces behind; that gives me a ventilation at the sides as well as behind.

Mr. Fixter: The cleat that is on the bottom behind gives that ventilation, and it sets it up and gives it half an inch space and makes a very good bottom board. There is about a six inch lighting board in front of the hive; that is nailed on the stand.

Mr. Post: Mine is square in front. I cannot see much object in it but the slanting board may have some advantage; it is an advantage for toads to get up on, but in shipping or handling in large quantities, as I do, they do not pack together so well.

Mr. Newton: I use the stand I use for winter packing. I never lift it from the ground during the summer. I use it for the summer stand then leave the rim there for winter. I find the square point does not make any difference. I do not see much object in having the bevel because the bees can light on the front and run in.

Long-Tongued Bees—Fad or Fallacy, Which?

In our last issue we copied an article from the "American Bee Journal" under the above heading, by G. M. Doolittle. It is only fair to Gleanings in Bee Culture and its editor to give his reply, which appeared in a later issue of the "American." We really do not yet know how much there may be in the "long tongue" theory. We have been watching it with considerable interest and Editor Root deserves credit for what he has

discovered along the line; at the same time friend Doolittle's caution may not be out of place.

Mr. Root replies as follows:—

On page 293 (American Bee Journal) I find an article by Mr. G. M. Doolittle under the above heading. "Of late years," says Mr. D., "some of our bee papers start off with some new idea, or some old one revived, and in a little while the heads in all beedom seem to get twisted . . . which, a few years later is dropped, with hundreds and thousands of hard-earned dollars wasted over the hobby or fad."

A thousand dollars—that's a big sum; and thousands of dollars—that's bigger yet. I do not recall any fads that have been dropped that have cost anywhere near such sums. Reversible frames? We sold, perhaps, more than anyone else; and yet we did not sell, all told, \$300 worth of them. Self-hivers? We sold about \$10 worth. But we must have some failure fads in order to get those that are a success.

Did Mr. Doolittle never ride a hobby, or push a fad? Well, let's see. Did he not champion wide frames for sections about 17 years ago? And now they are used by very few, including Doolittle. Was he not one of the very first who started the fad for tall sections? Did anyone waste thousands of hard-earned dollars on them? I cannot recall one. He started the fad for rearing queen-cups, and a very good fad it was. Did anyone waste any hard earned dollars over that? But the fad may be dropped for drone-comb queen-cups. He helped boom, years ago, in his pamphlet, "The Hive I Use," the Gallup hive; and some of his followers, as I happen to know, wished afterward that they had not followed him, because they had on their hands a lot of odd-sized

hives. But now Mr. Doolittle says the Langstroth is just as good as the Gallup, and has the advantage of being regular.

And that reminds me that Mr. D. has decried other fads which he has since adopted. He condemned, for instance, thick top bars, on the ground that he wanted burr-combs as "ladders" to enable the bees to climb up into the supers; and now he is recommending thick top-bars. If I mistake not, he once protested against the introduction of comb foundation, but is now using it, and sanctions its use. Prominent among those who pushed the fad for yellow or five-banded bees was Mr. Doolittle. If there is any fad that has cost beekeepers a few dollars (not thousands) and for which there may have been little or no return in honey, it was the rage for golden Italians, and Mr. Doolittle is still pushing them, if I mistake not. I do not say there is anything wrong in selling them. If one wishes beauty, he has a right to pay for it, and the breeder to sell it; but when Mr. Doolittle condemns others for pushing the fad of long-tongued bees—bees that give a promise of bringing in more honey he should not forget that there may be others who may be equally honest in advertising and selling long-reach bees.

He apparently questions the propriety of charging \$10, \$15, or \$20 for queens. If so, it is wrong for him, but perhaps in a lesser degree to charge \$5.00 for his best queens. It may be that no single bee is worth \$25. I have no quarrel with anyone who so thinks. I know this: We refused an offer of \$25 for a daughter of our best breeder. If it is right to sell stallions, Jersey bulls, dogs and roosters of high blood at big prices is it awfully wicked to sell queen bees at ten and twenty-five dollars

Certainly that the of the center of

He goes as saying long-ton ter exce goes on these lo special a thirds c America. long-ton red clov are othe deep cor ally to t there are of alsike bees to there are that are tongue-re there ar have dee ically a ment fall ainly kn at locali decidedly outh; a hole U and ar Onond

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Certainly not; for Mr. D. has said that the queen is the pivotal center of the colony; and in the same way an extra-good queen is the pivotal center of a whole apiary.

He quotes Stenog, in "Pickings," as saying that no one claims that the long-tongued bees would be any better except on red clover, and then goes on to say if this is correct "then these long-tongued bees are of no special advantage to me nor to two-thirds of the acreage of North America." I never claimed that the long-tongue bees would be useful on red clover alone. The fact is there are other honey-plants that have deep corolla tubes. I refer especially to the Compositæ family. Then there are corolla tubes in the heads of alsike that are too long for the bees to reach to the bottom; and there are tubes of even white clover that are somewhat long for the tongue-reach of the average bee. If there are other honey-plants that have deep corolla-tubes, then practically all of Mr. Doolittle's argument falls to the ground. He certainly knows that the flora of different localities of the United States is decidedly different, especially in the South; and he must not judge the whole United States by the vicinity and around his place of residence in Onondaga County, N.Y.

He says, further, that he finds breeders in the extreme Southern States, such as Florida and Texas, advertising long-tongued queens, just as if those long tongues were a great desideratum for that Southern country." Why, Mr. Doolittle, don't you know that most of the Southern queens are sold in the North? Don't you see, for instance, how a manufacturer of stump-pulling machines, located on the prairies of Illinois, might sell such machines in locali-

ties in other states where such machinery would be in demand?

The quotations Mr. Doolittle makes are, I find, from one of Mr. Hutchinson's advertisements, from some of my own writings, and from a statement or two in the American Bee Journal. Right on the heels of these he says: "To give misleading statements, or those that are actually false, is something that our bee-papers of the present day should not stoop to do—not even when the motive of gain prompts the advertisers." Why Mr. Doolittle, is it possible that Mr. Hutchinson, the editors of some of the other bee-papers, and all these other brethren whom you have quoted are putting out "statements" . . . "that are actually false," and "stooping" to unfair methods, simply for "gain?" I can not think you believe that. They may be misled; they may be mistaken; they may be wrong in their opinions; but falsifiers, never.

You say their are times when it is necessary to "call a halt." I partly agree with you; but it seems to me, Mr. Doolittle, in view of what I published on page 295 of Gleanings, that you are somewhat late in the day. After making all these quotations, and putting them in such a way as to leave the impression before the average reader that those of us who sold long-tongued stock had quite lost our heads, you might, in all fairness, have given other quotations from the same writers that hold up the danger-signals. For example, on page 295 of April 1st Gleanings, I said:

"There is danger that many who get queens of this blood (long-tongue) will be disappointed and in the end the whole business is condemned. . . . It is only proper to sound a note of warning. . . . We are not positively sure that the amount of honey a colony will gather is in di-

rect proportion to the length of the tongues of its bees....In any case, let us not lose our heads."

Again, on page 401 I published something more in the same line. I did not give these editorials because I thought it was necessary to call a "halt" but only to draw attention to certain phases of the question that were liable to abuse, and to prevent, if possible, probable disappointment.

In conclusion, let us bear in mind these facts: That red clover is not the only plant, by any means, that has long nectar tubes. Second, that if we succeed in getting long-tongue stock, we shall have bees that will get more honey out of alsike, as well as more honey out of red clover, in common seasons, and I have seen the nectar-tubes of white clover—that is, the longest of them—too deep for the average bees to reach the bottom of.

I desire to say that I believe Mr. Doolittle is honest in his position; but he has allowed his prejudices to warp his judgement, I fear. I bear no ill will toward him, and hope he does not toward me.

Locality the Greatest factor.

Homer H. Hyde.

If I was asked what subject was the most to be considered in modern bee-keeping, I would say that locality determines whether we should run for comb or extracted honey; what strain of bees are best suited; whether we are to depend on the home market or on the city market for the disposal of our crops of honey. Locality determines whether we can run bees extensively or in a limited way; in fact, locality is everything. If I was asked the most important factors in bee-keeping I would name LOCALITY, strain of bees, the

man and the hive, named in the order of their importance as I see it.

Now for some illustrations of these statements. We will take first a locality that has one main fast flow of honey that comes moderately early. In this locality. Either comb or extracted honey can be produced; just which the market demands. The strain of bees used must be one that builds up fast in the spring and as the honey flow approaches, diminish their brood next, so that there will not be too many idle consumers after the harvest is gathered. Thus the strain most suited in that locality would be Golden if you run for comb honey and three-band Italians if you run for extracted honey. It may be well to remember that Golden builds up rapidly in the spring, and decreases very much in brood as soon as the honey flow comes on. They are also good comb builders, capping their honey white, etc., etc.

Another illustration: I know a locality in Southwest Texas that has enough honey secretion to keep up brood rearing briskly during January and February, while in March they sometimes gather a good surplus. They have another fine flow the latter part of April and the first part of May and in the latter part of June a third good flow, and each of these what can be termed fast flows scattered along for four months. In this locality either comb or extracted honey is profitable, but comb is what the Bee-Keepers work for mostly. The strain of bees best adapted to this locality would be three-banded Italians, for they build up well and keep strong moderately well after the flow commences. Holy-Land Cyprians would be just the thing there but it so happens that there is not gathered there after July 1st, hence, these races would not keep a strong force during the flow

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as is there nature, but would also keep right on breeding until frost or until their honey was all used up: this would never do hence three banders have the preference for that locality.

Another illustration is our own locality. Here we are compelled to leave a large amount of honey in the hives for wintering purposes and for spring consumption, for there is no surplus gathered here before the last days of April, sometimes May 15th; then we have a fast flow for about a month about June 15th to July 15th. We have no surplus coming in after July 15th until frost. The last of October we have a flow of honey which is slow, never fast. The spring or May flow cannot be counted on here; especially has this been so for the last three years.

Thus in our locality, all things considered, extracted honey would be the most profitable if a good market existed for it, which does not, as bulk comb is the only thing that sells in Texas now. This situation leaves bee-keepers divided between which they shall produce. The strain of bees best adapted here, provided they have plenty of honey for wintering purposes, is the Holy-Land or Cyprian strain of bees because they keep a strong force of bees at all times, not being crowded out in brood nest by the bees. Goldenes are the best property that a bee-keeper can have, and three-banders are only moderately good in this locality. We have had but little experience with Italianians and am not prepared to say what locality they would best adapt to, but am of the impression that they as well as the Goldenes are as a whole better adapted to the North and West than Holy-Lands and Cyprians to the South, while three-band Italians are the best property that you would call an all-purpose property.

—Progressive Bee-Keeper.

How to make Honey Vinegar.

J. W. Skaggs in the "Southland Queen" gives the following recipe:

Get a good vinegar barrel or any good oak barrel, knock out the head and use domestic for cover. Cord the cover on tight with fish cord so that nothing can get in but air. Put in about 2½ pounds of honey to the gallon of water. Don't ever mix any yeast or anything else with it. Just keep it in the hottest room you have till it gets clear and so strong that no one can drink one tablespoonful at at once. Don't do as I did the first time I tried to make it. I concluded it was spoiling and poured it out. When it gets bitter and tastes like all mean things you ever did taste then it is making vinegar. Just let it alone till it gets clear, not like water but like brandy. The main things are a large vessel, plenty of air in the vessel, not in the house, and the hottest house you can make. Black sheet iron is just the thing to cover the housewith.

If you have a friend worth loving,
Love him. Yes, and let him know
That you love him ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.
Why should good words ne'er be said
Of a friend till he is dead?

—Selected.

The human race is divided into two classes, those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit and enquire, "Why wasn't it done the other way?" — Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Begin your winter preparations early, it pays.

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BRANTFORD - CANADA

Editor, W. J. Craig.

SEPTEMBER, 1901.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have not yet had the pleasure of visiting the Pan-American, owing to pressure of business. We hope, however to "take it in" in connection with our convention, meeting on September 10, 11 and 12. We understand that the Canadian Honey Exhibit is fully holding its own with anything of the kind so far exhibited. Hurrah for Canada! Mr. William Couse is now in charge of the exhibit.

We have been favored with a copy of the Rocky Mountains Bee Journal, edited and managed by H. C. Morehouse, Boulder, Col. It seems a healthy little publication, full of good matter. From the tone of its editorials we would conclude that its editor is a man of straightforward principles, who neither believes in "forcing sections" nor in journalistic piracy.

Too much caution cannot be exercised in the handling of foul brood. Occasionally we hear of it breaking out again in apiaries that have been treated, and as the owners tell us, "carefully treated." Such people usually blame the inspector and mistrust his method. We believe, however, that the trouble comes through carelessness or perhaps more through lack of knowledge of the contagiousness of the disease, and the necessity of disinfecting the hands, tools, and in fact everything that comes in contact with the diseased brood. Editor Root, writing on this point in "Gleanings," says:

Metal tools, such as screw-drivers, pries, etc., should be put on a bed of live coals for a few seconds—no longer enough to draw the temper, but to destroy everything in the way of microbes that may still be hanging about the articles. Smokers should be painted over with a strong solution of carbolic acid, and the fire-cup can be disinfected by making a good roaring fire in it. Division-boards and bee-feeders, and things like that should either be immersed in boiling water and kept there for a time, or should be dipped in a strong solution of carbolic acid—one part of the acid to fifty of water. When I speak of the acid, I refer to the crystals, and not to the solution that is ordinarily obtained at the drugstores.

In burning old combs I would first make a good bonfire and get a lot of live coals; then lay the combs on the coals one by one. But do not put them on too fast; and as a further precaution, (for the wax soon

times runs down into the ground (without becoming sufficiently heated) I would bury the ashes and the ground under them. Put them so far below the surface that neither plow nor spade will ever dig them up.

On another page of this issue we have given a report of the honey exhibit and the distribution of prizes at "Industrial Exhibition" Toronto. The displays were neat and tasty, as usual.

We were pleased to note a special prize this season for originality of design. This was deservedly conferred upon Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas.

The prize for best invention was secured by Mr. G. E. Saunders, on a combined extractor and overflow tank. Other inventions were a green nursery, and a top ventilating board, by Mr. Henry R. Smith, and a smoking box by Mr. R. F. Holtermann.

The prizes at the "Industrial" are general and well worth competing for, aside from the advantages the exhibitor has in being brought in contact with wholesale buyers. Good prices are usually secured for both comb and extracted honey.

There is one thing, however, that should be provided and that is a super building. This exhibit has been singularly unfortunate of late years in being so shifted around from place to place that visitors can never know where to look for it. This season we found it in a tent near the stand, and the exhibitors grum-

bling at the way they were being treated and threatening never to come back. Can't the O. B. K. A. do something about this? They have a representative on the board.

He Caught the Queen.

Editor Hutchinson seldom has space to spare for jokes, though he enjoys that sort of thing as well as most people. He tells the following select one in a recent issue of the Review:

"An amusing incident, illustrative of the amount of ignorance that one may possess regarding bees, was related to me this morning by a lady customer. A young man who had recently married her niece was visiting at this lady's home when a swarm of bees came out. This young man went out to watch the proceeding, when he soon shouted: 'Bring a cage, Auntie, I've got the queen, I've got her!' and came running forward with his handkerchief wadded up in his hands. Fearing for the safety of her queen, the lady was quite outspoken regarding the apparently careless manner in which she was being treated. With much solicitude the handkerchief was taken to a place of safety, and carefully unrolled, when out hopped—a little tree toad."

Honey Cakes.

Mix thoroughly 1 quart of honey, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint pulverized sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound fresh butter, juice of 2 oranges; then stir in gradually enough sifted flour to make dough stiff enough to roll out easily. Turn out on a moulding board; beat well for a few minutes with a rolling pin; then roll out into sheets half an inch thick; cut into round cakes and bake in shallow, buttered pans.—Delineator.

A Observatory Hive.
My second season's experience.

It may be in the memory of some readers of the B. B. J. that an account of a season's experience with an observatory hive was published in February last. A few notes of what was seen and done the following summer are now supplied, and to avoid repetition I beg to refer any one interested to my previous contribution, page 66 and 76 of the British Bee Journal for 1900. (C.B.J. pages 177 and 211.)

As a change on the Ligurians, I established a colony of English bees in the middle of May, headed by a very dark queen of the previous year. They prospered and multiplied and soon started what may be called trial queen cells—those that resemble acorn cups, and are built on the face of the comb. They seem to afford the bees much pleasure; the workers are constantly busy on them, but the cells hardly ever come to anything. Of a kindred nature are the obviously futile short holes made by rabbits, or the nests that some birds are in the habit of building before they settle down to regular work. Wrens especially build such nests, and it is said that the cock bird inhabits one while the young are being raised in the family brood-nest. Three queen cells of the usual type soon appeared and at about the time of hatching the bees made an effort to swarm. The queen, however, failed to find the exit. She showed great excitement for a while, but by evening all was quiet. Next morning one queen cell was in course of being demolished, and the following day the other two disappeared. I could not see that the queen took any part in their destruction, but she may have done so during the night. Six sections only were completed. By the end of August the colony had become un-

interesting and as the bees would not work on fresh foundation, I transferr- ed them to winter quarters.

I could detect no racial distinction in the habits of these English bees as compared with their more showy Italian cousins, except that, as usual, the capping of their sections was both smoother and thicker, and in consequence of the latter quality it looked whiter. The queen was brisker in laying than her predecessor, her average time in depositing the egg and getting clear of the cell being 18 seconds as against 30. On the other hand she was more deliberate in the preliminary cell examination so that the total difference was not very remarkable. My conclusion as to the number of eggs deposited by queens in twenty-four hours remained unaltered, for the reasons previously given. This queen also, when possible turned her head downward in laying. Her eggs as far as observed were always laid singly, one in

Fancy combs were again built on the glass with the same pleasing regularity, and in one of these comb cells I had the good fortune to be able to watch the gradual development of a drone bug into the perfect insect. The cell was nearly horizontal along the glass, and was open to view from its mouth to a point a little above where the rhombs angle off to form the base. The grub when I first saw it had been sealed in, and was still as far as I could see, in a state of rest; in appearance it was merely larval. The process of transformation was so very gradual that it would be useless to attempt to describe it in detail. It can be more accurately studied by any one who will take the trouble to uncap the vae at various ages and examine them with a pocket lens than is possible when observation has to be made

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through two thicknesses, or even one, of glass. Moreover, an admirable description of the metamorphosis can be read in Mr. Cowan's "The Honey Bee," page 158.

The first thing noticeable was the general wrinkling of the skin, with signs of a neck and waist being formed. Then very slowly a vague outline of limbs and wings was formed, so gradual that you could not say how it was done. There was something ghostlike, something quite uncanny, in this constant motionless development. Day after day the pure white nymph lay perfectly still on its back; no sign of life, no sign of color. At last, on June 18 the head began to color purple. The next day it darkened a little, and the body showed slight signs of color. On the 20th came the first sign of life. At first a slight motion of the head from side to side; later in the same day the legs began to move a little. On the 21st the body had become generally darker; the wings were tinged towards the points of attachment, but the nerves remained white. That morning the insect—began to push with its legs, while the head moved more frequently from side to side. Life was beginning fast. By noon it had turned off right over, and for a while lay on its belly, after which it turned back again and rested. In a short time these movements were repeated. The thorax had by this time become dark, and hairs were now visible over the body. At night the insect looked very like a drone, and by the next morning, the 22nd, the tomb was empty, and work-bees were busy filling it up. From the time the young creature showed signs of life the bees had been very busy at the entrance of the cell, but I could not

see that they did anything towards freeing its inhabitant.

The little game of "chiveying" which I described in my former letter was again very popular in my hive, and I was amused to observe it being indulged in by some bees on the outside of a swarm-cluster one day when I was looking for the queen.

I am inclined to believe that bees cannot continue in health in a hive temperature over 90 deg. Fahr. Last year I noticed signs of discomfort when the thermometer showed 92 deg. This season, when the drone-bug above mentioned was first described, I feared that it might become chilled in its position against the glass. I therefore kept on the lined shutters of the hive as much as possible day and night, and the thermometer was generally in the neighborhood of 92 deg. Bees began to die, and before long had done so in such numbers that I had in the end to take off the glasses from one side of the hive and remove the corpses, hundreds in number, the bees being no longer able to cope with them. This done, and on my ceasing to use the shutters, the mortality ceased at once and the hive remained perfectly healthy. The ventilation was good all the time, though perhaps somewhat interfered with towards the end by the accumulation of dead bees. I conclude, therefore, that these were killed by the constant heat. When in an ordinary hive the temperature from any cause rises to an uncomfortable heat, say 90 deg., the bees leave the hive; sometimes, as many must have noticed, hurrying out; and they remain outside until the heat has become bearable. The construction of an observatory hive, especially with the glass-covered exit passage that I have adopted, makes this exodus inconvenient. The bees

remain to a great extent in the covered way.

This year arrangements had been made to secure plenty of drones, and I was able to study the method adopted to get rid of them. The first sign of it was that here and there a worker climbed on to a drone's back and nibbled at him in a playful way for a few seconds, generally at the base of the wings. The drone would shuffle on an inch or two and apparently think no more of it. In a few days these attentions became quite spiteful, and soon workers could be seen hanging on like little furies to the poor drones, and dragging them with many an indignity to the entrance. Sometimes a drone would force his way back; but in the end the unfortunate males had been so worried and hustled, that they became disheartened and no longer dared attempt to return. Doubtless they soon perished from cold and hunger, for the drone consumes much food, and is, I should imagine, quite incapable of procuring any outside the hive. As to workers stinging the drones, I saw no sign of it: not only would it appear to be unnecessary, but there would be some risk to the worker in attempting it. In the unkindly office just described, the same want of unanimity to which I formerly alluded seems to obtain amongst the workers. The greater number of these do not attempt to molest the drones. During the period of bitterest persecution I actually saw a worker feeding an expelled drone in the covered way near the mouth of the hive.

It has often been observed that the drones pack together in corners of the hive when their time of tribulation begins; but the packing seems to be a habit of theirs at any time. Early in the season one might see as many as thirteen or more drones

packed closely together on the comb. Perhaps two or three workers among them, but all the rest of the cluster were drones.

Propolis was carried in largely towards the end of the season, and again I saw a bee, itself laden with it, nibble off a piece from the load of another and chew it as it walked above the combs.

It is stated in our most valued books of instruction on matters apian that bees clean their antennæ by working them through the comb in an arrangement on the opposite foreleg; thus the right antenna is said to be cleaned by the left foreleg and vice versa. Far be it from me to suggest that this is not correct; but it is by no means invariable. I have often seen bees cleaning an antenna by means of the leg on the same side. This can best be observed with the drones. For obvious reasons they are very particular in grooming their antennæ, and they are also slower in their movements than the workers. Or if any one will offer his finger to a worker bee which has come into a sitting-room in the spring or autumn and which has become somewhat chilled, the bee will willingly climb on to it. Offer a drop of honey; and will go the little tongue like a flash and in a few moments the drop will have disappeared. Then our little friend will begin to clean its antennæ and with your finger close under your eyes the process can be clearly observed. It is quite probable that it will be seen to take place in the way I have described.

This concludes my observations for 1900. The observatory hive has again been such a trouble to me that I hope some of your readers may have profited by my advice and have started their own observations. I have a fine Cyprian queen ready for the season.—South Devon Enthusiast

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Questions and Answers

Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least the replies will be procured from various sources.]

QUESTION—Which do you consider the best introducing cage?

H.F.H. (QUEBEC.)

ANSWER—We use the "Benton" most exclusively as it serves the purpose of both mailing and introducing. The "Miller" is much used by the Root people in their apiaries and perhaps has some advantage over the "Benton" as an introducing cage, as its construction exposes the bees and queens more directly to the entrance of the colony and contact with the bees.

QUESTION—How can I make a sugar syrup for fall feeding that will granulate or crystalize in the combs?

SUBSCRIBER.

ANSWER—Two-thirds sugar to one-third water, bring to boiling point, then add one teaspoonful tartaric acid to each gallon of the syrup and remove at once from the fire. A pound of honey to the gallon of syrup will serve the same purpose, if you have it to spare, and your bees will take the feed more readily with this addition. [ED.]

Preparing Honey For Market.

By G. M. Doolittle

One of the requisites toward a high price is to take the honey from the bees as soon as it is sufficiently ripened, which is generally the case when each section has the comb thoroughly sealed over; and if the honey is removed off when so sealed the combs

will have that beautiful white appearance which is so captivating to the eye.

I consider it a great mistake to leave section honey on the hive very long after the combs in them are fully capped over, as the little extra ripening of the honey which may take place later on, cannot in any measure compensate for the dingy appearance which the capping to the combs will assume. And if the temperature of the room in which the honey is stored, when off the hive, be kept at from 85 to 95 degrees, the honey will ripen just as thoroughly and just as nicely as if left on the hive; and no room is fit to store honey in for any length of time which cannot command such a temperature; for with a cooler temperature, especially if the room is damp, the combs will soon have a watery look to them, this being caused by the dampness causing the honey to swell or expand until it touches the capping to the cells; and, if long continued will cause the cells to "weep" and the honey to sour. If the temperature mentioned above cannot be maintained, or very nearly so, in the room in which we store our honey, an oil stove or heater will be found an excellent thing, as the wicks can be turned up or down so as to give the desired temperature at all times. Having it in such a warm room it will be necessary to look at it often, for this high temperature will cause the eggs of the wax moth to hatch, should there be such on the combs. If little flour-like lines are seen on many of the combs, thus showing that the little larvæ have commenced their work, it will be necessary to destroy them in some way, or they will soon spoil the nice looks of the capping, and cause the honey to run out of the cells.

When such flour-like places have

been found, it has been my custom to sulphur the honey, which is done by setting an old iron kettle having ashes and live coals in it in the room, when one-fourth pound of sulphur is poured on for every two hundred cubic feet contained in the room. Care must be used for it is quite a nice point to get enough sulphur to kill the moth larvæ, and at the same time not to burn so much as to color the combs; for if too much is burned the combs will take on a greenish hue, which will injure its sale in the market.

Having the honey thoroughly ripened,—and sulphured if necessary—the next thing is to crate it. The propolis should be carefully scraped from each section, so that none of the slovenly look shall be upon it which we sometimes see in honey where no attention has been paid to this propolis matter. Before commencing to scrape the propolis off, three sections should be selected which will fairly represent the pile of honey, when, as each section is finished, it is to be held up near these so as to tell into which grade it shall go. It may be necessary to make more than three grades in some parts of the country; but with me three grades are sufficient for each source of honey. And it is best never to mix honey from different sources together; so we will put the clover, basswood and buckwheat honey each into three grades. I use x's to distinguish these grades, xxx being the very best, xx good, and x the poorest. Then I have three crates setting within easy reach of me and as soon as a comparison with the sampled three tells me where the section last scraped should go, it is set in the proper crate, and so on, till the crate is full. If you wish to have the honey take the name of "gilt edge" put on the cover to the crate with bright round-headed screws.

This gives the crate a nice appearance, does not tend to break the honey by driving nails when the honey is in the crate; keeps the bottom of another crate from coming in contact with the nice, white cover to the first, where two or more are piled on top of each other, and the cost is but a trifle above the nails. Now sandpaper off the sharp corners or any rough or dirty-looking places, and you, yourself, will have to admit that this little extra work has made an attractiveness to your package which will more than compensate you for all of your trouble. And what looks attractive to you will be very the thing that will catch the eye of the customer. Having all thus crated, pack nicely away for shipment, when a sale is made, or to show to purchasers or any company which may chance to call in.

Bear in mind, comb honey sells from its looks very largely, and the nicer the appearance the better price it will bring.—American Beekeeper

The Honey Bee in Natal

II.

The lot of the bee-keeper in tropical countries is often looked upon by those in northern latitudes with envy on account of the "perpetual summer" that is supposed to be particularly favorable for the pursuit and the absence of the long winter confinement, and no doubt as far as the bees are concerned there should be less losses. There are, however, periods of scarcity during which the bees rest and very little breeding is carried on, these occur between seasons and if the rains are not late stocks become very weak and dwindle to so low an ebb that they cannot recover without help.

The flowers though very numerous are spread over a long period and rarely give the

nectar that is drawn from clover but when times during the year they come in sufficient quantity to afford some surplus which, however, makes more labor with the extractor and it would be much more satisfactory to get it done at one operation.

The general run of the year may I think be set down as follows: The spring which should set in in September with rain starts the ground crops of weeds and breeding spreads that about November some surplus should be obtained, then the hot weather commences which dries up the flowers in the middle of the day and very little is done although the bees fly strongly especially in the early morning. In March the nights get cooler and heavy dew brings on another crop of ground flowers which generally gives some good honey about the beginning of May when the winter is first felt in the cold nights although there is rarely any frost. A good many native trees flower at this time most of which have small green flowers which are very attractive to the bees and also peach and mangoes follow, so it is a busy time and a surplus is generally to be had in August when farms generally are plentiful. It will thus be seen that bees have no means an idle time in fact they work harder than in the North and the reason that they store less is I think owing to the protracted honey and not to the loss of storing which is often stated to occur when bees are sent to warm countries. I had a good opportunity of testing a few years ago when a flower came out that only blossoms in quantity every seventh year, as hives then yielded 70 to 80 pounds that under ordinary circumstances would not give more than 20 or 30. We are having a very unusual season, cold and wet instead of dry

and I am doubtful what to expect from first blossoms as hives are not so strong as they should be.

A. C. Sewell.

Durban, South Africa, Aug. 7th, 1901.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

G. A. Deadman, Brussels.

No. 1.

Having sold my drug business and wanting two or three carloads of honey I decided to take my bicycle and make some calls where I might probably find some for sale. As a preface to this article I might say it came to a choice with me either to give up the bees (so far as working with them myself was concerned) or to give up my drug and book business. It is not wise for one to attempt too much. I found the long hours, early with the bees and late with the store, rather more than my constitution was equal to and so I have made choice of the bees. I remember Dr. Miller being once asked regarding his choice of bee-keeping rather than medicine. His reply was to the effect that while there might not be so much money in it, he felt better.

I have more than once after working with the bees on a hot day, gone into the store and finding it so cool and pleasant, wondered if I was not making a mistake in having bees at all. Yet when it came to a choice of the one or the other, I chose the bees and do not think I will have cause to regret it. I mention this, as there may be some of the readers of the C. B. J. who are a little inclined to envy the merchant; but "all is not gold that glitters" and while there may be times when keeping store is preferable to bee-keeping yet, taking it all the year round I think the latter is preferable, provided there is sufficient profit in it. Of all secular callings, however, I know of none that can compare with bee-keeping, and no-

thing that will one work at with so much enthusiasm. No matter how tired I may have felt on leaving the store, I would feel quite as revived and refreshed as in the morning, provided I would go and do something with the bees. I wonder sometimes if this will ever die out, but it does not seem any nearer to it now than eighteen years ago. The forward look seems always bright, as one anticipates some short cut in the work, some new device to try and so much to learn. There is a scripture verse, Mr. Editor, that seems to fit our chosen pursuit so well, and which is "Ever learning yet never coming to a knowledge of the truth." I am sure it must be this in part at least that makes it so fascinating. I somehow think that to make this calling a success one must have a love for it. I suppose it is so with any calling, but it is especially so with this one.

One cannot travel far or visit many bee-keepers without being impressed with the fact that only a small percentage of them take a bee journal. On my returning home I was wishing I had done some missionary work in getting new subscribers for the C. B. J. It seems to me, that apart from the information one gets from its perusal, we Canadian beekeepers should subscribe to it as our own paper, as it ever stands ready to advocate our rights and assist in the general welfare of the pursuit in this country, and it would be a great loss should it cease to be published. One does not have to travel far before seeing that it means considerable loss to those who do not subscribe for one journal at least. They are of necessity away behind the times. If they all knew this it would be more pleasant for the caller, but when one can neither give nor receive information there is lacking that which tends to make a visit enjoyable; besides this

one is not nearly so much a stranger when meeting another who is a subscriber to some journal, many are so careful about "entertaining strangers" that I had sometimes to go hungry or seek a meal elsewhere.

I was amused with one lady bee-keeper—I stated my preference for well ripened honey, from combs that were partly capped at least—such a look of pity for my ignorance and hoped I would never teach such a doctrine as that, for said she, "you spoil the combs when you have to uncup them besides getting so much less honey". I suppose we all admit the truth of the last statement. She maintained however that the honey was better when not capped—I did not argue this point with her as this was ignorance personified—another beekeeper was uncapping L. frames with a butcher knife—I am free to confess he did some good work but of course intolerably slow,—I don't know what the Cogshalls or Dadants would say if they saw him—I find too that very few are possessors of a good bee veil, some inferior black netting for a small space in front and the rest of factory cotton. It pays to have a good bee veil, silk Brussels net for half at least and the other half should be as porous or open as one can get provided a bee cannot pass through. It may only look a thousand times better but being cooler is more comfortable as well.

(To be continued.)

The Exhibitions.

TORONTO.

The display of honey at the Industrial, though small in comparison with other years, was perhaps the finest in quality that has ever been exhibited here. There were only four entries, Mr. G. E. Saunder, Ag-

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ton, Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas; Mr. Geo. Laing, Milton; and Mr. J. F. Davison, Unionville.

Mr. A. E. Hoshal, Beamsville, and Mr. J. D. Evans, Islington, were the judges.

The competition was extremely close in some cases. The awards were as follows:

(The names are according to order of merit.)

Best 50 lbs. granulated clover honey, Geo. E. Saunders, R.H. Smith, Geo. Laing.

Best 50 lbs. granulated linden honey, Geo. E. Saunders, R.H. Smith, Geo. Laing.

Best 500 lbs. liquid extracted honey, Geo. Laing, Geo. E. Saunders, R. H. Smith.

Best 500 lbs. comb honey in sections, Geo. E. Saunders, R.H. Smith, Geo. Laing.

Best 12 sections comb honey, Geo. E. Saunders, J. F. Davison, R. H. Smith, Geo. Laing.

Best 100 lbs. extracted liquid linden honey, R.H. Smith.

Best 100 lbs extracted liquid clover honey, G. E. Saunders, Geo. Laing, R. H. Smith.

Best 10 lbs. extracted liquid linden honey, R.H. Smith, G.E. Saunders.

Best 10 lbs. extracted liquid buckwheat honey, Geo. Laing, R.H. Smith, G. E. Saunders.

Best beeswax, Geo. Laing, Geo. E. Saunders, R.H. Smith.

Best foundation for brood chamber, Geo. E. Saunders, R.H. Smith.

Best foundation for sections, Geo. E. Saunders, R. H. Smith.

Best bee-keepers' supplies, R.H. Smith.

Best invention, Geo. E. Saunders, R. H. Smith, R. H. Smith, R. F. Ostermann.

Best six varieties of uses for honey, Geo. Laing, G. E. Saunders, R. H. Smith.

Neatest exhibit, R. H. Smith, G. E. Saunders, Geo. Laing.

Exhibit showing most originality of design, R. H. Smith.



†††††
Communications
†††††

We have received the following from the Secretary of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.
Editor C. B. J.

Dear Sir,—The National Bee-Keepers' Association of the United States have given an invitation to the officers and members of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association to attend their annual meeting which will be held in Buffalo, N. Y. on the 10th, 11th and 12th of September next. As there is every likelihood of there being a very large attendance of bee-keepers from all parts of America and it is expected that the programme will be of the best. It is hoped that as many as possible of the members of the Ontario Association will attend.

It is desired that all members of the Ontario Association who attend the International wear their badges; these will be sent to members early in September.

There has not been any arrangements made in Canada with railways for rates to bee-keepers as rates to attend the Pan-American will be in force and will likely be as low as any that could be secured.

Hotel accommodation can be arranged for ahead of time by writing to Mr Sidney S. Sleefer, of Holland, N. Y. on or before Sept. 2nd.

W. Couse,

Sec. O.B.K.G.

Streetsville, Aug. 26th, 1901.

A NEW UNCAPPING BOX.

How to Extemporize one out of Old Hive Bodies.

By Harry Howe.

Take a good tight hive and nail a cover to the bottom; then wax the crack, and you have a fair capping-tank. For the box to cut the cappings into, take another and tack a piece of wire cloth over the bottom. Bring the edges of the cloth up inside of the hive-body some two inches or so, and tack a strip over it all the way around. This will leave it so that the bulge from the weight of cappings will come down into the lower body, which is used as a tank. By tacking the screen inside, the two bodies will fit close together and make a good joint. Then, too, none of the dripping honey will fall outside.

Put a piece of board across the top to rest the frames on while they are being uncapped. Then when you wish to leave it, a cover closes it bee-tight. This will hold enough for half a days' work if the cappings are cut up once in a while with the uncapping knife, and this cutting helps very much in the draining.

In this way one gets the lower hive-body just about full from the cappings that the upper one will hold.

Have a pail of water and a good whetstone handy by and keep the knife in perfect cutting order. Then when you cut, CUT. Many people take off the cappings as though the combs were something precious, and not to be handled roughly. By cutting just into the honey one can cut much faster, and will have more wax. If a comb buldges cut it down level. By putting eight in a ten frame super they mostly do buldge some; but it is easier to take the honey from eight big thick combs than from ten thin ones.—Gleanings.

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