

## Communication

Q.—If an empty comb is put in brood chamber when hiving, on starters, will it be necessary to put on a queen excluder?

A.—With my systems I would do so. Mr. Sibbald spoke of the advantages of putting in large, deep frames, I presume that would be the case. I have always put the excluder on for comb honey, and I keep it on.

Q.—What about the Alexander method of building up weak colonies in spring, is it a good one?

A.—I cannot say as to that. It is a plan more adapted to the chairman's system than mine. I never tried it.

The Chairman — The system is to put two colonies one on top of the other with a queen excluder between them. Set the weak colony on top of the strong one. I put two queen excluders on top of the strong colony and then a weak colony on top of that. I would always choose a colony right beside the one you are moving. Do not carry the colony from the other side of the yard because if you do you lose the flying bees.

Q.—When would you do that?

The Chairman—After they get some brood.

Q.—What is the best time to put bees in the cellar in the vicinity of Toronto?

The Chairman—About 15th to 20th of November would be my advice about that.

Q.—Would an uncapping machine be a very great advantage?

A.—From my own standpoint it would be of very great advantage. With an uncapping machine and my gasoline engine I could almost sit down during the busy season, providing the capping machine came up to my requirements.

The Chairman—We have with us now the Minister of Agriculture, the honorable Nelson Monteith. We have been waiting to hear him and we are glad that he is here, and I have much pleasure in calling upon him to address you.

(Continued next issue.)

May it not be possible that a part history of a couple of colonies, swarms of 1905, may be of interest to some of your readers, especially the method of dividing a colony or making a swarm, a la "clodhopper"? These colonies had clipped Italian queens and I practiced stimulative feeding as soon as they were put out of the cellar last spring. I may say, too, that they came from off four-inch scantling near the bottom of a good cellar, with no bottom-boards, with a few inches of planer shavings around and above them, except in front, not tiered up. They came out in good condition, while many near the top of the cellar suffered severely from the heat of this extraordinary winter. They together were fed about 1-4 pint of good honey and as much water, quite warm, nearly every day, the water I considered essential to success, like our friend Johnson in American Bee Journal of July 26, 1906, p. 635. He feeds 3-4 water and thus prevents the bees dying at watering places when it is too cold for them to be out; water being then so essential for speedy brood-raising. We had a lot of old clothes that had been saved up for years to cover tomato plants from the frost, and they were used to protect the hives from both heat and cold and boards protected them entirely from rain all the season. I cut out all embryo queen cells, in fact, I injured the bees by opening them up too often. I was trying to get them to build 9 1-2 inch combs instead of the shallow 7 1-2 Danzenbaker ones in which one of them had been since 1905, and the other in deeper, but patched-up combs. I succeeded in getting nearly all new combs built for the two stories of the deep hive with 11-inch frames by ordinary Danzenbaker hive of 16 1-4 by 20 outside, and robbed them of many bees to build up swarms got from the woods. Neither of the colonies swarmed unless they did so when not watched. The bees in the hive with 9 1-2 frames originally with the 7 1-2 ones were built up till they were 34 inches high, and full of bees and much honey, and they became as vicious as any blacks ever were. I desired these to swarm, but to no purpose, and although they were killing the drones at the close of the flow from clover, I determined to have