

the city of Toronto has more deaths than the locality where Mr. Darling lives, simply because there are more to die; the dead bees clog the entrance and smother the balance. I might relate that one year we got no honey six or seven miles from home, and the lady of the house had a baby and the eldest girl was down with typhoid fever, and they did not want a stranger to feed the bees; and I had to go out and feed them in the latter part of October or first of November. We had thirteen nuclei. I fed my bees first, and after I got through I had some syrup left. I did not want it to be kept over to the spring, and I went to these nuclei and made two colonies of them. Allow me to tell you, contrary to my expectation, those were the two best colonies in the apiary of about eighty colonies. I would not advise anyone to do this, but sometimes things turn out different from what our expectations or calculations are. I would not run the risk of buying sugar for them, but I had it made.

Mr. DARLING: I am firmly of opinion that our bees sometimes breed in the winter and we sometimes do not know. I had one colony in particular that had a spot of brood as large as my hand on one comb and I think there were three combs altogether, and I expected that colony would be no good. It was the best colony I had when I put it out next spring. I do not think it is the breeding altogether; I think there is something else which we have not got at the bottom of.

Mr. McEVoy: For twenty years or more I have had more or less that was not crowded on five combs, sometimes ten and fifteen. I guess this year I have about ten crowded on five combs, but I noticed in the spring of the year ten or fifteen that were not crowded, and, although they had the weight and were heavy with honey, they would not average up with the crowded ones.

Mr. DICKSON: Some would advise doubling up and trying to keep your colonies, but I say it is all very well for an amateur to try that, but since we have carried on the business exclusively we have found it does not pay to double up, neither does it pay to doctor a poor colony in the spring; let them go.

Mr. HOLMES: My experience in the matter of the small colonies tallies exactly with what Mr. Hall told us. On more than one occasion it has happened to me that the small colonies have come up and done excellent work, as good as those of a great deal more pretentious dimensions.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: My experience has been about the same as Mr. Hall's with his nuclei. When I put two or three colonies together and put them into proper shape, as a general thing they were my best colonies in the spring; that is, if they did not start breeding before the spring. I have had them to come out and cluster outside in February. I was sure that colony would go up and be no good next spring, but if they were closed up tight with full sheets of sealed honey, no room for the queen to do anything until they got some consumed, those colonies came out all right.

Mr. HALL: I have great faith in Mr. McEvoy, and I think it is four or five years ago since we hived our bees on contracted hives of five combs instead of eight. I fed them up as much as they would take, and therefore, I presume, it was solid combs they had, and in the spring they were in a nice condition. But allow me to tell you that I had to go into them and give them room for breeding purposes, and I did not get so much honey from them as in other cases. It may be my location or stupidity.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Do you not think the reason you did not get good returns from the strong colonies was that there was a time before the main flow came that they would run down in stores?

Mr. HALL: I will tell you decidedly on that. They had too much stores. They could not consume it to raise brood, and as I was lazy I did not take out this division board until fruit bloom. But they wintered well.

Mr. GEMMELL: If you have weak colonies in the fall and double them up they will come out all right, but give them room afterwards.

Mr. HALL: But suppose they are weak in the spring?

Mr. McEVoy: You are going on the idea that there are going to be a lot of them weak.

Mr. HALL: Do you not have weak colonies in the spring?

Mr. McEVoy: Certainly, some.

Mr. HALL: You lose all of your nice queens. Let them be, and those that are

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