

wedges than without them.

Mr. Smith. If you had a small colony of bees in that hive would you get the outside sections filled just the same as if you had a large swarm?

Mr. Shaver. I don't use small swarms.

Mr. Smith. If the super wasn't full would they fill the outside?

Mr. Shaver. I have had them fill the super before they touched the outside. I have had them start in the middle, but I have had them start on the outside too. What I want to know is the proper time to put the wedges in.

Mr. Post. What race of bees do you produce that honey with?

Mr. Shaver. As near as I can tell they are hybrids.

Mr. Post. Is the foundation stock Italian?

Mr. Shaver. I don't think so. There was some neighbors of mine had better bees than mine, and mine have improved.

Mr. Holtermann. I might say as far as those wedges are concerned. We tried in the same yard wedges and no wedges, and we certainly think we got better comb honey and more evenly filled with the wedges. It seems to me it would be reasonable. Of course, anything that will produce the same effect will answer, but by doing that the bees are compelled to go along the outer sides and fill the outer sections.

Mr. Gemmel. Last year I used the wedges, and this year I didn't. Of course it depends a good deal on the honey flow. I think a perforated separator has more to do with getting the outsides filled than the wedges. There was one other point, Mr. Shaver asked, when was it best to put the wedges under. That is before swarming or after swarming?

Mr. Shaver. Any time. After swarming I put them under.

Mr. Holtermann. Mr. Pettit, puts them in before.

Mr. Shaver. But does he put them in when he puts the super on?

Mr. Holtermann. Puts them in a little after the super is put on, so as to force the bees into the super.

Mr. Alpaugh. I would like to ask any others who use the wedges if they examined under the hive to see whether the bees are not clustered on the bottom board.

Mr. Shaver. I have. If the wedges are put in at the right time they will not cluster around the bottom board.

Mr. Sparling. I have tried the wedges to a small extent but I could see no difference,

Mr. Armstrong. I would like to ask Mr. Shaver if he uses perforated separators.

Mr. Shaver. I used a few, but mine were not spaced right. I made them myself and I got the spaces too big.

Mr. Gemmel. I thought Mr. Post's were a little large. He made his and I thought if his were a trifle less they would be better—just barely wide enough for the bees to go through only. With the use of wedges you get the outside sections better filled than without them.

Mr. Shaver. By all means.

Mr. Gemmel. That is opposed to my experience. I would sooner do away with the wedges than the follower, that is for getting the outside sections filled.

Mr. Post. That is my experience. In fact I never use wedges.

Mr. McEvoy. I would like to hear from Mr. Sibbald along that line.

Mr. Sibbald. I never tried the wedges, but I block the hive up in front and there is a space left then from the front to the back. The bees can get out near the front, the back they cannot. They store their honey up from the outside comb; they don't leave their honey down so near the light. Before that I had the outside combs pretty well filled with honey. Then as to the followers, or the wedges, I have used them for a good many years. I had to use them to fill up my super in the first place, and after just followed the separator with the wedge, and it gave a space at that side; the other side I hadn't one. The one near the space was the best filled. Now I have one of those both sides.

Mr. Gemmel. Mr. Alpaugh, as I understand him, he doesn't want space at the side of the super at all. Mr. Post prefers the space, and so do I, and you prefer the wedges to the space at the side.

Mr. Shaver. I haven't tried it enough to know. I have had good results from the wedges.

Mr. Holtermann. You know as soon as you begin to make perforated dividers; the expense is so great in boring those holes that it makes it an expensive contrivance,

Mr. Shaver. Why not punch the holes the same as in the chairs?

Mr. Holtermann. Yes but you would sell more seats for chairs than of the other. I have great doubt that either the fence separator or the perforated separator has any advantage in the interior of the hive. It may be between the last rows of sections and the side of the hive.

To be continued,