

as soon as the honey harvest begins, to gather the honey. The more bees you raise, the more honey it takes to feed the babies. If those babies do not live long enough to gather that amount of honey, we come short at the end of the season.

Mr. Post: I notice there is a great difference during the white clover season, that some colonies do so much better than the others, but I take them to the buckwheat fields in the fall and I declare to you I can't see any difference. I think it is in the age of the bees.

Mr. Hall: If you had only an early flow to depend upon you would soon weed out those fellows who do not get ready in time.

Mr. McEvoy: I will agree with Mr. Hall so far as he has gone and I will admit that there can be a large quantity of bees in a hive that are worthless to gather honey. Mr. Hall has got a good strain, but if he has a hive with a queen that will produce just twice as many of that good strain, isn't she the better queen?

Mr. Hall: Certainly.

Mr. McEvoy: Because double the number of bees will give double the quantity of honey, and double the quantity of money.

Mr. Holmes: Answering Mr. Hall's objection and criticism, I think Mr. Hall brought out a good point there, that we sometimes have very populous colonies and one colony here will be good honey producers while the other there will not. It seems to be at least somewhat of a mystery. As to whether or not they are holders, but a counsel of war and deciding whether they shall establish a new home somewhere, I do not know. As I said before, that is a mystery to me; however, I think if Mr. Hall will look a little further down in my paper, he will find a paragraph which covers the ground which he has criti-

cized. I say that our aim should be to get the best and keep the best. Of course if we keep the best that is with a view to the best honey gatherers.

Mr. Hall: Your paper does not say so. You say "those that are most prolific." Langstroth was not a honey producer; he raised bees for sale; he wanted those that looked nice and laid a lot of eggs.

Mr. Holmes: In my paper my intention was to refer to the stock producers as not being satisfied with knowing that every one was thoroughbred but to know that each individual of the herd was of the very best kind. I think if you read between the lines you will catch it.

Mr. McKnight: The paper just read by our friend Holmes is perhaps one of the best of its kind that I have listened to in connection with this subject during the long years I have been associated with this Association. It is a very peculiar subject that was assigned to him and he has treated it well. The queen bee is a most remarkable creature. To use a paradoxical phrase she is the mother and she is the "father of the man." I believe that it is generally recognized that the mother is the father of the man (Laughter). This is paradoxical, but biography seems to support me in that statement. The queen bee is one of the most remarkable creatures in all history, in all nature in fact. He told us she will lay three thousand five hundred eggs in a day. What does that mean? It means about three times the weight of the creature which deposits them. Is there any other creature in creation that performs such an extraordinary feat as this? I remember once, I think it was in Brantford, that I said a few words on the queen bee and I incidentally referred to just what Mr. Holmes has referred to now. The