

I did not do it at all, and I must say I could see no difference in the hives as far as that was concerned. Those with the solid covers were no worse than those that had the covers pried loose. The entrance would be four or five inches, some of them a little more. This winter two-thirds of my bees have no quilts on them at all, just the ordinary wooden cover. Whether I shall loosen some of them or leave all that way or not I have not made up my mind.

Mr. ATKINSON : How much packing do you use on the top ?

Mr. GEMMELL : A good foot, that is on top of the hive proper. I press it down pretty well with my hands.

Mr. ATKINSON : You think they winter better with a foot than five or six inches ?

Mr. GEMMELL : I think so.

Mr. DARLING : I winter inside, and I have been in the habit of taking my propolis sheets off and putting in sawdust. Last year my bees were late getting in, and a great many went in with the propolis sheets on and the cushion over that. It has been many years since I had the bees come out better than they did last spring.

Mr. SMITH : I would just like to ask you if you winter in the cellar, and what was the thermometer ?

Mr. DARLING : I try to keep it at forty-five degrees. It is just in a solid clay bank about six feet deep, and so warm that it is only necessary to put on a little sawdust.

Mr. SMITH : Under those conditions they would winter all right, but if you had a lower temperature you would find it just the opposite.

QUESTION : Which bees are the most subject to spring dwindling ; the bees wintered in the cellar or those wintered outdoors ?

Mr. EMIGH : I do not winter outdoors, so I do not know anything about how much they dwindle when they are wintered outdoors, but if they are wintered properly in the cellar, and taken out at the proper time, I have never had great trouble in spring dwindling. I do not think any person can winter outdoors with very much less spring dwindling than I have had by wintering inside.

Mr. PICKETT : I have wintered two seasons out of doors, but it is practically indoor wintering. I have been packing them with sawdust. For my own part I would hold up my hand for indoor wintering. As for dwindling, I see but little difference if necessary care is taken.

Mr. ATKINSON : How soon do you take them out ?

Mr. PICKETT : As soon as we feel confident we are going to have warm weather. If I get them all out in April I do very well.

Mr. SMITH : I think in the future we will put more out in March. The last two seasons I have put them out on the 8th of March. As far as I can see I think I shall winter more in the cellar. We have a good deep cellar, with high temperature. Some say 45°, but I would say from 45° to 50°, because I notice those on the top always come out in the best condition. I always raise them about eighteen inches from the floor, and the cellar is perfectly dry.

Mr. PICKETT : My experience has been much the same as his. The top rows always winter best.

Mr. SIBBALD : I recommended putting them out in March in my paper. If they are contracted, if they fill the hive, it does not matter whether they are put out in March or not ; if they occupy ten frames, half of it empty space where cold and frost can get in, they will spring dwindle.

Mr. HOLTERMANN : There is much diversity of opinion through the country as to spring dwindling. In five cases out of a hundred there is spring dwindling as a result of the season. Where you have these catchy springs, the sun comes out warm, and the bees get out, and then cold weather comes and spring dwindling is the result. But gen-