

east end of Ontario. My practice is not to sell the buckwheat, and we save this buckwheat to feed the larvæ; and when these bees arrive you will have workers, and you will have a strong swarm which will work—and the honey will come, too.

Mr. McEVOY: I wonder how many here would be able to catch the queen by the wing like Mr. Hall does. I think we would be likely to cut a little bit more than the wing.

Mr. HALL: Not with a knife.

Mr. McEVOY: Take an ordinary farmer, and I think he would take half the bee. I admit that Mr. Hall's remark is true, speaking generally, that medium bees winter best, the weak ones fizzle out and the strong ones will go to pieces, that is, without contracting in the fall of the year; but take good strong stocks and go back to the crowding system in the fall of the year, and put them on combs solid sealed and they won't go to pieces, because I have stopped the queen from breeding.

Mr. HALL: This is outside business.

Mr. McEVOY: In or out the strong ones go to pieces, and I am going to fix it so that I can stop that. Coming to the weak colony, I will agree with you in the spring of the year. I will put two or three of them together in the fall of the year, and I will bring out a colony in the spring on the crowding system and not keep them spread or give them the whole comb or too much territory. During ten days in February in last winter we here in Ontario had a sort of Klondike weather. If the bees are spread out the steam condenses in all the combs outside the cluster and some bees starve to death, with honey in the outside, and if they had been crowded in the centre, when they wanted honey all they had to do was to lean forward. It is a sure system, and it is better than Mr. Hall's.

Mr. F. GEMMELL: Mr. McEVOY is all right; he crowds them on to four or five combs, and there is no place for the queen to lay until they have wintered, and then they commence to boom right along.

Mr. WALTON: Why do strong colonies succumb?

Mr. McEVOY: You can break up almost any colony. Take good strong colonies, spread out when going into wintering outdoors and empty, and there is all the chance in the world to lay in the centre, and the bees have to care for the young. The bees become restless and are worn out to no purpose, and you have spring dwindling and fizzling out. You can check that; just give them the sealed combs, and rest your queen.

Mr. WALTON: When do they commence to breed in the other case?

Mr. McEVOY: Later on; as they consume a little more and more they are getting further out to the spring, and you can get more fly-days; you have rested your bees and you have saved them. I am speaking from practice.

Mr. McKNIGHT: Does not your system prevent bees from clustering?

Mr. McEVOY: No.

Mr. McKNIGHT: I understood you to say that all the bees had to do was to lean forward.

Mr. GEMMELL: They are clustered on the honey.

Mr. McKNIGHT: They are practically spread over the comb.

Mr. McEVOY: They are crowded up solid, and some of them are behind the division board. Speaking of the division board, I would like to improve on the division board. I like to have a bee space at the ends and bottom, and if I do happen to crowd a few outside they will get in there. I do not want division boards to fit so close that I have to rip them up.

Mr. GEMMELL: I have contracted in the fall and they wintered first rate, because there was no space for the queen, and in the spring they boomed right along.

Mr. DARLING: Reference has been made to the strong colonies breeding early. I know what some of my experience has been. The seasons vary greatly in the eastern part of Ontario. I have seen me put out good strong colonies in the latter part of April or first of May with scarcely any bees in the hives; I have seen me put out strong colonies in the last week of March and first of April with young bees crawling all over the combs. I found the young bees crawling over the combs by the 10th April.

Mr. HALL: Mr. Heise's paper spoke of wintering them outside, and with a very large population there will be more deaths than with a small population; for instance,