

to go up the side. Ordinarily the bees enter the entrance at pretty nearly the centre and the hive being low they catch and go right in and fill the centre of the super while the outsides and corners are only partially filled. If the hive is so raised that the bees on coming in do not so readily catch on and go up but get the habit of going this side and that side, the point gained is that they fill the supers at the outside just as readily as the centre. That is a point worth recollecting and worth while trying. I have experimented on it for a number of years till I am satisfied there is a great deal in it. I am not going to say there may not be possible advantages in having two supers, but for me it would be inconvenient; I didn't like it at all; I had too many traps around and too much tinkering to do. By the process I use the bees seem to manage the whole thing themselves.

Mr. McEvoy—You may put the bees on as strong as you please but where there are only the starters it is so high for the bees to reach that they do not catch and run up like they do where the sections are filled with foundation.

Mr. Pettit—I fill the sections with foundation.

Mr. McEvoy—It pays to fill the sections full. Mr. Gemmell spoke about Mr. Hall putting on these supers. It is a short box he puts on and if the bees are not very strong they will take possession of the smaller space, but if you give them a larger space they do not make as good a job.

Mr. Shaver—Will Mr. Pettit's supers be level when he puts his wedges under?

Mr. Pettit—They may if I choose to have them so. I like to have them very nearly level. When I set my hive out in the spring I set the hinder part of the hive about an inch higher than the front and when I put in the wedges it brings it very nearly level. It is not absolutely necessary to have the front and rear ends of the hive exactly level but they should be level the other way. After the discussion on this question was ended Mr. McKnight's question was taken up.

Mr. Gemmell—There is one way you can find out that the old queen will lay more than the young queen. If you are working for comb honey have your bees on starters and you will find that the comb is filled with drone eggs. If you have a swarm with a young queen on say five starters you will get very little drone comb. You can take and hive them with an old queen under the same circumstances and you will find a great deal more drone comb, and you will find eggs in every bit of it.

Is it the bees that are the cause of this

drone comb being built? Do they see that the old queen is failing and they require more drones in order to fertilize the young queens?

Mr. Evans—Might not the reason be that as the queen is only impregnated once in her lifetime and to produce drones it requires nothing of that kind that she is dying out and becomes incapable and lays drone eggs without fertilization?

Mr. McEvoy—There is a way out of it. Don't keep queens beyond two years, as a rule, and in all cases fill the sections full of foundation.

Mr. McKnight—Why do you advise not keeping the queens longer than two years?

Mr. McEvoy—The summer the queen is raised she is pretty good, in the next year she is in her prime and often lays very well, too, but as a rule she is not so good; you don't get so many bees, you don't get so much honey and you get less money. It pays to do away with them in two years. It paid me.

Mr. Pettit—What would you think of advising a man who has good cows to butcher them off when they are in their prime. I am free to admit there are queens in every apiary that ought to be turned over to the butcher but there are others that in my opinion, it would simply be a shame to do it with. This year when I started out I hadn't a very large apiary, and this spring I found five young queens, all the rest were more than one year old; I kept a record of them and quite a number—I can't give the exact proportion—were two years old and a number three years old and quite a sprinkling of them four years old and I don't believe there is a bee-keeper present that has obtained more comb honey according to the number of bees, and better filled sections and more complete work than I got from those old queens.

Mr. Gemmell—That doesn't prove anything because the locality may have everything to do with the difference.

Mr. Pettit—I live in a locality where there are lots of bee-keepers all around and they have the same privileges.

Mr. Gemmell—Do you know for a fact whether the management the other beekeepers gave their bees, was the same as you gave yours in the spring? Do you think they had their colonies in just as good shape? Did they come out of winter quarters in just as good shape?

Mr. Pettit—I would not like to press the point that the advantage I gained was by the old queens. But, I would like to press the point that there are queens two, three and four years old that are equally as good as young queens.

Mr. McEvoy—There is many a good horse