

to apiculture, yet different people view things from different standpoints, and therefore see them in a different light. In this way a dignified discussion if conducted in the right spirit can result only in good, since it must reveal some points that can not be seen from one particular point of view.

Viewing the Dadant hive from the standpoint of the comb-honey producer in the average location, it is weighed in the balance and found wanting. Therefore, it does not possess the necessary qualifications that should recommend a hive to a class of bee-keepers that represent by far the greater majority of the bee-keepers of this country.

Mr. Dadant is viewing his hive from the standpoint of the extracted-honey specialist, who represents a very small part of the bee-keepers of this country. Viewing the Dadant hive from the standpoint of swarm-control, its claims can not be substantiated in the production of comb honey. An extracted-honey hive must have something besides its size to recommend it. Therefore, the 8-frame Langstroth hive must ever remain what it is—a general utility hive—the hive that is best suited for the masses.

The Dadant hive is too heavy to be carried in and out of the cellar. Therefore bees in these hives must be wintered out-of-doors, which necessitates a great amount of frame manipulation in the fall in equalizing and uniting small colonies. Mr. Dadant admits that he finds some difficulty in increasing his bees enough to make up for winter losses, which is in itself rather significant.

My worthy opponent has fallen into a common error among large-hive advocates, in assuming that a large hive always contains a large colony of bees, while just the reverse is quite apt to be the case.

If a hive is made large enough to develop the fertility of the best queens, the average queen can not keep it filled with brood. Hence, it becomes a store-

house for honey. This condition of things is followed by a long train of evils, such as swarming, crowding the queen, loafing on the outside of the hive, refusing to enter the super, etc. And the bees will continue to crowd the queen until the breeding space is far more limited than it would be in an 8-frame hive. Thus the largest colony is quite as likely to be found in an 8-frame hive as in a Dadant hive.

Perfect control of bees is only to be found in a hive in which the size, shape, and methods of manipulation are correctly and scientifically balanced. Such a hive is the 8-frame Langstroth hive of to-day.

When bee-keepers learn that bees can be controlled only through their instincts they will be in a position to understand that perfect control of bees is out of the question with a hive in which the room in the brood chamber exceeds the fertility of the queen. Here is where the 8-frame hive wins out in an easy pace.

The fact as stated by Mr. Dadant that his neighbor's bees in 8-frame hives became over crowded with bees by May 15, and cast swarms every year, while Mr. Dadant's bees seemed to have plenty of room, and cast few swarms, is rather significant, and proves two things quite conclusively. One is, that the 8-frame hive is a splendid hive for building up rapidly in the spring, and the other is that the neighbor above mentioned has much to learn about bee-keeping-methods. If the owner of those bees knew enough to give them a set of half-depth brood-combs at the right time, they would not have swarmed, and would have rolled up an amount of surplus that would have made the Dadant hive man stand up and take notice. And why not, for they are then larger than the Dadant hive, and in much better shape for rapid breeding up, since the additional room is in the warmest part of the hive—right over the brood-nest—which enables the bees to care for twice as much brood as in a