ARTIFICIAL OR NATURAL SWARMING—WHICH IS BEST?

The President expressed himself in favor of natural swarming; if increase was desired, dividing was the most rapid plan, providing queens were given to the new colonies.

Mr. Armstrong said if increase was desired, artificial swarming was the way to do it, but it was necessary to raise good queens for the new hives, or buy them; he preferred artificial swarming, as it could be done when convenient, and obviated the necessity of watching the hives to prevent swarms from absconding. A good plan, if you want honey is to allow one natural swarm, and prevent after swarms by cutting out queen cells.

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Rose gave their plan, and approved of what had been said by the previous speakers. The President gave his plan of dividing, which was slightly different from that usually adopted.

Mr. Armstrong took three or four frames of brood and adhering bees out of a strong colony and put them into a new hive, and gave them a laying queen, and the hive soon became a good colony. Mr. Smith thought natural swarming the best unless a laying queen was given to the new colony.

HOW TO RAISE GOOD QUEENS.

The President said the best queens were raised in the natural way by the bees themselves; he had raised them both ways, and preferred the natural way, but if a man went into queen rearing he should have a queen nursery.

Mr. Ross thought the best way is to have good stock, and raise queens only from the best and purest stock.

Mr. Atkinson spoke in favor of raising queens in two or three frame nucleus.

Mr. Armstrong described his plan of raising queens, which is the same as that practised by D. A. Jones, and exhibited a queen nursery.

Mr. Jeffrey thought as good queens could be raised by the bee-keeper as were raised under the swarming impulse.

QUESTION DRAWER.

In answer to Mr. Rose, how to winter bees, the President advocated plenty of feed, a good strong colony, and protection from the cold weather.

Mr. Armstrong believed in plenty of protection from the cold, plenty of stores and good ventilation.

A general discussion took place on hiving swarms, and Mr. Armstrong exhibited a swarming box he used for the purpose—a very handy and useful implement.

WINTER AND SPRING LOSSES.

	Fall '85.	Spring '86.
James Armstrong,	80	73
Wm. Kindree.	54	46
Wm. Atkinson,	11	11
H. Smith,	5	5
D. Anguish,	25	21
D. Jeffrey,	19	19
D. Rose,	59	46
R. W. Beam,	31	17
Robt. Coverdale,	21	18
Geo. B. Stephenson,	13	1
Hugh Stewart,	6	4
Joseph Carter,	15	14
J. D. Rutherford,	4	3
John Kindree,	1	1
Wm. Brown,	30	10
M. Richardson,	22	15
W. Richardson,	18	9
E. C. Campbell,	41	*14
R. S. McGill,	6	5
	461	330

*Loss caused by flooded cellar.

Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Anguish, that the next meeting be held at Caledonia, on Monday, August 23, at 11 a. m.

E. C. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

ONE QUEEN PRODUCING TWO RACES OF BEES.

A. FYFE, Hamiston—Did you ever have or know of a queen that produced two distinct races of bees? I have a Carniolan queen which has been fertilized by a Holy Land drone, and about one-half of the young bees that hatch are pure Holy, and the other Carniolans.

That is perfectly natural. It shows that she was a pure queen crossed with a Syrian and of course the bees would be hybrids, part Carnolians and part Syrians, some would look as if they were half Carnolians and half Syrians.

D. S.—What is the reason that we often see black bees and hybrids mixed in the same hive? I have a hive that contained a small sprinkling of hybrid Italian bees last fall before going into winter quarters. This spring there were quite a number of them and at this date, June 3rd, the hive is about equally divided between blacks and Italian hybrids. Some of the hybrids have three bright bands on them.

It shows that your queen has mated with a black drone if she was an Italian, and if she was a black queen she would have mated with an Italian, then the bees are hybrids. Sometimes the queens appear to produce different bees from others, but that is not very probable. In our opinion we think it is usually caused by the queen being superceded and then of course when she mates it becomes the different cross. Unless queens wings are clipped it is impossible to tell