

Q.—Have you a double wall hive or a single wall hive?

A.—I use a wintering case for four colonies, not a double wall, just a single, four hives in a bunch.

Mr. Pettitt—Do you leave the bottom board tight and the cover on?

A.—Yes, just as they are.

Q.—Did you ever find the entrance clogged up with bees?

A.—No, I rake the entrance out if the snow blocks it up.

Q.—How do you fix the outside entrance to keep the snow from packing?

A.—I think it would be better to have a storm door fit over the entrance. I have been studying that out for some years but haven't perfected one to suit me.

Q.—Have you had any experience in wintering bees in a trench covered with straw and earth?

A.—I have had no experience with that system of wintering.

Mr. R. F. Whiteside—I tried that a number of years ago when I had about six hives; I put them in just the same as potatoes. I dug a hole three feet wide and two feet deep, and I put straw and boards and earth, then straw and boards and more earth. I put a gas pipe up through for ventilation but the bees stopped them all up, but they came out as lively as bees ever did in my experience. Next year I tried eighteen and I boarded them all up inside and the lower twelve hives were very easily carried out when spring came. On the top rows they managed to pull through. The first time they were all right and the next time there were twelve gone.

Mr. Holtermann—I tried six or eight that way. They came through all alive but they were a poor success and I do not feel like repeating the experiment. Is the regular practise in Russia to bury bees under the ground.

The Chairman—I think the soil has

a good deal to do with it. I do not think sandy soil would do at all.

Mr. John Timbers—I tried it with a couple of colonies one winter. They were good when I put them in but they came out too quickly, two early, when I wanted to take them out they were all gone. The outside atmosphere would have something to do with it. The year I tried it we had a mild winter, something like last.

The Chairman — My experience is that it would not be a very good thing to recommend to any one.

Q.—Are not the forms enquiring regarding honey crop, issued too early for many bee-keepers giving correct information to form a basis of prices?

A.—I do not think they could be issued too early for the benefit of bee-keepers for market. The trouble is the other way. We need that report just as early as the honey comes from the hive.

The Chairman—It would be better if the bee-keepers would not be so particular for having it exactly accurate. Give it as nearly as you can and send in a report. I think some bee-keepers are so honest that they do not like to report until they have it all laid out and know exactly what they have got. That is a mistake, we do not want to know just to a pound or two.

Mr. Holtermann—I quite agree with what Mr. Miller has said as to the need of estimating rather than waiting to know the exact amount. There is no use writing a man what his buckwheat honey crop is going to be about the first of August. And I would suggest that there be an attached slip which can be torn off and used as a fall report.

Q.—Can colonies coming out of winter quarters queenless be properly queened in the spring?

A.—From my own experience I will say No. You can send and get queens and introduce them, but I do not think with profit to the producer. It is too early in the season to handle a colony in that state properly.