

Mr. Pettit: Either.

Mr. Newton: I agree with Mr. Pettit.

Mr. McVoy: The objection to this starter business is drone combs. I do not think I own four inches of drone comb in all my apiary, and I have practically shut them out; but they will work them in on the edge somewhere. I have had them convert a little irregular sized worker comb to drone. I have shut them out wherever I could.

Mr. Morrison: If Mr. Sibbald is telling us what he does now, since he has not all the bees he can handle, but it is certain enough that is not the system he tried until he got that quantity of bees. When he had only ten or twelve or twenty colonies he did not practice trying to keep down increase.

Mr. Pettit: I am working for increase to a certain extent now, and I practice hiving on starters just the same. All the extra worker combs I want to get built in the super: I think I can get that done better in the super than in the brood chamber. The peculiar point in getting it down there is that you get it built down to the bottom bar; you do not have that space.

Mr. McEvoy: Do you put on all foundation or part comb.

Mr. Pettit: About half comb and half foundation. I put the comb in the middle and the foundation at the outside and two separators in each super.

Mr. Sparling: Perhaps I might suggest a compromise between your combs and Mr. Pettit's system of starters. I would not use eight frames if I were hiving on starters; I would only use five or six at the outside, more often five, if I wanted to practice economy. About three weeks after I had hived them I would fill it out with some of those old combs of yours

and then there would be a chance of it being a fair colony for the fall.

Mr. Sibbald: I do not have any more swarming than I can help, and I do not calculate to have more than thirty per cent., anyway. I increase by nuclei, and in the case of an old colony set off there it is a very easy matter to divide that old brood nest and put only half of it back. The other half is left with the young queen if you want to increase; if you do not want to, you can put it all back, Colonies that do not swarm are left untouched, or you can form a nucleus of one or two combs out of them if you want to. I think that is Mr. Post's system of increasing. When you hive on starters, say ten, and the bees cluster right along on them that is contraction, but they have got any amount of room, they are not apt to abscond or swarm out of it. I often take an empty super and put under one with the starters on.

Mr. Pettit: In one or two days take an empty hive, and take out the starters at the outside that they have not started to work on, and put in dummies; then the ones they have started to work on they build with worker comb down to the bottom very well.

Mr. Sibbald: It is very seldom they ever work down any more than four or five of the empty ones which are better than a dummy, because you do not want them too close.

Mr. Pettit: How about worker comb?

Mr. Sibbald: I am not particular about that, to tell you the truth, because I do not use them to winter on at all.

Mr. Pettit: If you do not care about worker combs I would leave the dummies out.

Mr. Sibbald: I take those combs out in every case, and if they are nicely built and started well I use