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ANNUAL MEETING OF ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

(Continued from Page 177).

FORCED OR SHAKEN SWARMS.

Paper by Morley Pettit, Belmont, Ont.

The keynote of modern business is specialization and expansion. The highest success can only be attained by concentration of effort in a single line. To bee-keepers this means the cutting out of all side lines and keeping more bees. Not only that, but they must be kept with the least expense possible of both time and money. To do this, one must have large ideas, establish out apiaries and adopt methods quite different from those employed in a single yard.

The first and greatest problem in connection with out apiaries, is that of controlling the desire, more or less developed in all bees, to swarm. Where one is devoting his whole time to one yard, it is comparatively simple to allow this impulse to take its natural course; but, while swarms are issuing from being hived at home, the thought would be unpleasant, to say the least, if swarms were issuing, without being hived, at several yards away from home.

Great many plans for the control and prevention of swarming have been proposed and adopted with varied success, but the one particularly under consideration, known as "Forced",

"Brushed" or "Shaken Swarming"

It was first brought before the public in a time and manner to attract general attention, by L. Stachelhausen in the *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, Nov. 1st., 1900. True, this method had been practised and described to a limited extent for over one hundred years, but not until this recent date, when the general establishment of out apiaries had awakened the sense of need, did the idea become popular. During the three years which have followed Mr. Stachelhausen's first article, the matter which has been printed on this one subject would fill volumes. It has been tried and rejected, or adopted with variations by thousands of apiarists. Upon the whole it has proved most generally successful.

It is the purpose of this paper to describe briefly 'Forced Swarming', as practised by myself with a large measure of success during the past season. By its natural swarming is almost entirely avoided and each yard visited only once every seven to ten days.

In the first place every effort is made to retard swarming. Extracting supers are put on all except weak hives during fruit bloom, and a certain amount of evening up of brood - that is taking from the strong and giving to the weak - is done at that time. When white honey begins coming in freely, the brood is again evened up in the stronger hives, alternated with empty combs. Comb honey supers are put on or extracting supers enough