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How to Make Money Producing Extracted Honey

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Dr. Miller—Before that question about the queens is entirely passed, I would like to ask a question. Suppose, Mr. McIntyre, that you had a hybrid queen and the colony gave you an exceptional yield, away beyond anything else in your apiary and you never expected to sell a queen in your life, would you breed from that queen?

Mr. McIntyre—That is a pretty good one, Doctor. I can answer that in Dr. Miller's own language—"I don't know". (Laughter.)

Mr. Hyde—We have with us another extracted honey producer, Mr. Dadant, and I am sure we would like to hear from him.

C. P. Dadant—I feel like saying something in regard to the cold knife. I have tried both the cold and hot knife, and have stayed by the cold knife. There are times, however, when it is impossible to uncap honey with a cold knife. In the fall of the year, in our neighborhood, it is pretty cold at night, and after the honey is taken from the hive a little while it gets cold and thick, and the knife instead of cutting breaks the comb. Now, when the honey is fresh from the hive and warm, the cold knife will do splendidly. I think when combs are not off the hive too long, and are warm, the cold

knife is all right; but you let them rest awhile, and the honey gets thicker, you will have to use a warm knife. I would not recommend extracting the honey when the combs are cold. It is much more difficult to uncap it, and much more difficult to extract the honey. We always extract the honey as soon as it is off the hive, for when it gets cold, it is much more difficult to handle, and, of course, a man who extracts a good deal must consider all these things.

Prof. Cook—I would like to hear from Mr. Dadant on the question of the hybrid queen for breeding purposes.

Mr. Dadant—I think we have just as good queens among the Italians as among the hybrids.

Dr. Miller—But the condition is that you have one that is superior to anything else in the apiary.

Mr. Dadant—Well, in an impossible case we could have impossible results. (Laughter)

Dr. Miller—More than once I have had hybrids that were superior to any of the pure ones

Mr. Dadant—I have heard more comparison between Italian and Cyprian. I have had Cyprians, quite a good many. I have noticed one thing which perhaps some of you may not have noticed. There are exceptions to all the rules, however. The mating of a cross Cyprian queen with a drone from the quiet Italian colony will produce a mild and gentle type of bees, the moral qualities coming from the