

had them to come out and cluster outside in February. I was sure that colony would go up and be no good next spring, but if they were closed up tight with full sheets of sealed honey, no room for the queen to do anything until they get some consumed, those colonies came out all right.

Mr. Hall: I have faith in Mr. McEvoy, and I think it is four or five years ago since we lived our bees on contracted hives of five combs instead of eight. I fed them up as much as they would take, and therefore, I presume it was solid combs they had, and in the spring they were in a nice condition, but allow me to tell you that I had to go into them and give them room for breeding purposes, and I did not get so much honey from them as in other cases. It may be my location and stupidity.

Mr. Armstrong: Don't you think the reason you did not get good returns from the strong colonies was that a time before the flow came out they would run down in stores?

Mr. Hall: I will tell you decidedly on that. They had too much stock; they could not consume it to raise brood, and as I was lazy I did not take out the division board until fruit bloom.

Mr. Gemmell: But they wintered well.

Mr. Hall: Grand.

Mr. Gemmell: If you have weak colonies and double them up they will come out all right, but give them room afterwards.

Mr. Hall: Spring or fall.

Mr. Gemmell: In the fall.

Mr. Hall: But suppose they are weak in the spring.

Mr. McEvoy: You are going on the idea that there are going to be a lot of them weak.

Mr. Hall: Do you not have weak colonies in the spring?

Mr. McEvoy: Certainly, some.

Mr. Hall: You lose all of your nice queens. Let them be, and those that are worth anything will come up and give some honey, and those that are worth nothing will die.

Mr. Heise: Would you leave them 8, 10 or 12?

Whatever it is I don't meddle with them; I look under the bottom to see if they are strong; I don't touch the top at all.

Mr. Walton: If the weak ones winter that way without being contracted, why don't the strong ones do so?

Mr. Hall: I give you the reason. With a small entrance and large population there would be more dead, and they would drop on the bottom board, and they would suffocate.

Mr. Walton: It is a somewhat interesting question to this convention. This spring management of bees has drawn out quite a discussion. With all the experienced bee-keepers' here I may be away behind the times, but I tell you my bees are not. I contract neither spring nor fall.

Mr. Hall: Neither do I.

Mr. Walton: We ought to get to some settled point on this question. With reference to the weak colonies in the fall with my friend Hall. I would allow them to stay so, if they have stores enough; don't meddle with them. I wintered some twenty-five, I practise out-door wintering, but last year I wintered 25 in the cellar—queens I had not sold—they were rather weak, but they surpassed all the ideas and opinions of the writers in journals. I could give the temperature and a good many things along this line, but I do not think it is necessary. I would leave the weak ones quietly alone if they were any ways protected for the winter. Also