

tracting drawn comb first, and then when they get that partially filled raise it up and put underneath a super with foundation.

Of course if you are in a buckwheat district, and you want to increase your combs for the following year, it is a very easy matter to do it in buckwheat flow, and at the least expense. If you have to draw out your combs and extract them during the time light honey is coming in, you are doing it at great expense, so far as I can see, but if you do it in buckwheat—I believe that is the time, if you need combs, to get your combs drawn out, I do not know that this is the very best way.

Mr. Fleming. I never had much experience, but I believe the fall is a very good time if one has a foundation to use up the fall flow. In the spring the old combs are easier to handle, and the best for extract. I always put the brood combs in the brood nest and use the old ones for extracting. The bees will store honey quicker in the old comb; even if part is old and part is new they will fill the old first.

Mr. Heise. In making use of the old brood comb for extracting, won't it darken your honey?

Mr. Fleming. No, We use all old combs for extracting.

Mr. Holtermann. I have seen old combs taken (and you know it is brown in color), if you put water into that cell it will turn the water a coffee color. It seems to me that that is pretty conclusive evidence that it will color the honey. But in addition to that, that old comb will be all right if you keep on using it (hear, hear), because I have seen the comb being filled and refilled.

Mr. Shaver. I never let weak colonies build foundation; I draw from the better ones and give to the others; make the strong ones build for the others. Why are my combs good? Put in full sheets and you have pretty nice combs.

Mr. Holtermann. C. W. Post uses combs for buckwheat; he has them cleaned out, and uses them the next season for his light honey. We bought eight thousand pounds of light honey from him this year, and you could not get any better anywhere. He never gets any blossom honey in the hives; nothing but buckwheat and clover. He used to laugh at us western people, extracting fruit bloom honeys, because he never got any. He extracts buckwheat, and then the other after that, and has no difficulty.

The chairman said he had had combs

built in a good many different ways, but his were mostly from starters.

Mr. Fleming asked whether the Convention did not think that the principle of putting these combs in with starters would work better if they put the new hive below, and put the queen down.

Mr. Atkinson. Have the upper story over extracting chamber; by putting comb in the centre of the upper story, why wouldn't they work and put the surplus below instead of above; why wouldn't they work above as well as below?

The Chairman replied that they would build them, but that a nice job was not made of it.

Mr. Holtermann. If I was running for extracting honey, I would never use the starter so long as I could get the whole sheet of foundation, because it holds the bees back; unless it is in very exceptional conditions of flow, and you are not aware of these conditions before hand, you must take it for granted that you are going to have a good flow, and if you have that you won't have so much honey.

At what stage should honey be extracted was next in order of debate.

The chairman called first on Mr. Craig, who said that before being extracted the honey should be at least three fourths capped, but wished to know if the chairman meant perfectly ripened.

Mr. Alpaugh replied that he supposed that was the idea.

Mr. Holtermann. I think, with the probability that we will be exporting honey, that it is desirable that we have the quality better than we have ever had it, and more than that, I think we are taking better honey than we used to. We cannot do too much in the direction of producing a good article of honey; there is too much honey extracted when it is thin; I know that some will say that honey ought to be kept till it is capped, and a good deal after, and others will say that honey is sometimes thinner than at other times when it is capped; we will admit that, but we have to come to some practical rule that we can all follow. If the honey is kept, and it has a glossy, shiny look in the cell—if we will all adhere to that of extracting we will have a better quality of honey than is in the market at the present time; and to go beyond that is unnecessary, and to a certain extent impracticable.

Mr. Atkinson entirely agreed with the remarks of Mr. Holtermann.

Mr. Robinson. The longer it is left on,