

Annual Meeting Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association

Held at Guelph
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday
Dec. 6, 7 and 8, 1898

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Mr. Armstrong—I think brother Brown has given us a very fine paper, but there are a few things that I don't agree with him on. The first thing I notice here is having his hives all in rows. That is something I used to do, but I have dropped that. Instead of putting them in rows I put them in clusters or I put them in pairs. Another thing, in the extracting, I don't quite agree with him there. I don't generally do it till the season is all over. I generally have supers enough, so that when one is full I take and raise the super up bodily and put another empty one in under it with full sheets of foundation, or if not I put full combs if not full sheets of foundation. If they need another one I do the same. I leave my whole crop of honey there until I am ready to extract it. I have my honey all there and I think I get a good deal better honey, and I have no trouble in ripening my honey afterwards. Then I extract the whole crop. I very often use the Porter Bee Escape. I can take off may be 20 or 30 supers to-morrow. I just take my wheel-barrow up alongside of my hives—I have two hive boxes that hold eight frames each—and I just put my combs right in there and wheel them right alongside the extractor into the honey house without lifting them at all. That does away with all this lifting. I just take it right up alongside the uncapping can and slide them off. If the season is over certainly, I leave them in the honey room until toward evening and then I return the empty combs and have them clean them out and leave them there until such time as I go to examine the bees to get them ready for winter, and my combs are all clean and dry. That is all I do with them. That is one thing in this paper I don't agree with.

Mr. McEvoy. You just take the top story right off?

Mr. Armstrong. Yes. What I had reference to was not when I take them out comb by comb, but when I take them off

as a whole with the Porter Bee Escapes I don't need these. I take the full supers off as many as I can get on the wheel-barrow.

Mr. Newton. I would just like to ask Mr. Armstrong if he uses a stove like Mr. Brown. In our locality, if we were to leave our combs over night with the Porter Bee Escape on we would be unable to do so. Mr. Brown says he uses his for a variety of purposes because he says when he takes the honey to the house he keeps the temperature at 90°. Bro. Armstrong would have to use it for warming the honey up for the purpose of extracting it, because we couldn't do it if they stood over night with capped combs.

Mr. Armstrong. I had no difficulty with leaving them over night. In some cases the honey would be toughish and in that case I have a stove in my honey house.

Mr. Gemmell. If you take your honey out in July or August have you to heat it before extracting it?

Mr. Newton. Certainly. I don't think any one can extract it without the honey stringing out, and I don't want it all over me.

Mr. Brown. I think there would be no daubing if it was left until cold with me, particularly if it was clover or basswood honey. I find if that is left over night it will stick and become as sticky as mud, but at the last extracting, when the buckwheat honey is coming in, it is unusually clean, and suppose it does stand over night, or over a week, it makes very little difference, you can uncap it supposing it is cold, but with the clover honey it becomes too thick.

Mr. Holtermann. Do I understand Mr. Brown to say the buckwheat honey is thin?

Mr. Brown. Yes.

Mr. Post. I have had buckwheat honey as thick as any honey I ever saw.

Mr. Brown. I am living in a buckwheat district, and I have harvested buckwheat