

find there are some bee-keepers who leave the sections on all winter, and there are some who think it is an advantage to use drawn combs with a little honey in them. They do not trouble to extract or clean that out. I don't know whether you have ever noticed finished sections from that practice. They are very apt to ferment, and some bee-keepers do not know what the cause of it is.

The President—Would it be worth while if you had a few bait sections to put them in even if you threw them away afterwards?

Mr. Smith—I would put either two or four, or as many as I have in the corners, but they must be dry, otherwise they will ferment and spoil the cappings on the finished comb.

The President—Mr. Sibbald waits till his bees swarm and puts his sections on the swarms.

Mr. Smith—That is all right.

The President—I don't know whether he can get the quantity. I should not imagine he could.

Mr. Pettit—That is the best way for quantity, though.

The President—Is there any other bee-keeper who practices that?

Mr. Smith—That is very largely our practice, and we find we can always get it nicer and whiter and the sections finished.

Mr. Byer—Do you have an extracting super on previous to that?

Mr. Smith—Oh, yes. In some seasons there won't be sufficient room in a nine-frame hive to give the queen sufficient space, and we put on another set of combs or a shallow body, and just before the honey flow commences we take that off and put on the sections or put the sections on the swarm. We use perforated metal between.

Mr. Alpaugh—I understand that this is a clear case of producing comb honey. If you want to run your bees for comb honey, and by a non-swarming system so that you will not have

to watch your bees or shake them, as the case may be, I was pointing out the way I would do to prevent all this I don't want my bees to swarm, and I don't want to have to watch them, and to do that you have got to put on some kind of room. If you run for comb honey that is the only room you have got. If I was running for both I would put on an extracting super and take that off later and put on comb.

The President—But still you must work for comb honey in your comb honey system?

Mr. Alpaugh—There are lots of people who do not produce any extracted honey. If you are going to leave off everything until they swarm, they may swarm pretty quick, and before they do anything probably.

Mr. Smith—The object of putting on, not necessarily extracting combs, but it might be another brood nest, is simply to give the queen room.

Mr. Holtermann—I suppose the question is to be connected with what is practical and what will pay. Whilst there is no doubt in my mind whatever that the best comb honey can be produced by having your bees swarm first and then hive them upon starters and putting on your sections then, I doubt very much if that is the way in which you can get the best return, unless your honey flow is exceedingly short. Now, if you do not put on a super before your bees swarm, you are going to have a very strong swarm, and then if you put that upon starters, and they have got to build their comb, it takes 21 days to develop the first bee. Then that stock is going to be very much depopulated by that time with old bees dying off, and in the flow that comes on about two weeks or so after the swarm issues, there is not going to be anything like the number of bees to gather. Another disadvantage, of course, is there will be more or less of drone comb, and in those combs that are built upon start-