

tully instructing the inspector when and where to proceed on his duties, a thing by the way I think my predecessor knows is not so easily and satisfactorily done in all cases. Finally, should this paper prove of value in assisting those present in overcoming some of the difficulties referred to. I shall feel amply repaid for the attention you have given me, and will only add that I trust you may all have a prosperous season during the coming summer of 1893.

F. A. GEMMELL.

Mr. McEvoy read a paper on "How I prepare my Bees for Winter, and care for them in Spring."

The discussion on the ever interesting subjects of wintering and springing bees lasted till the time for adjournment.

HOW I PREPARE BEES FOR WINTER, AND CARE FOR THEM IN SPRING."

BY WILLIAM MCEVOY.

With me, the most and most important part of the work is done in the honey season. I keep every colony very strong in bees, and some days before the honey season closes, I stop taking honey, so as to have the combs in the top storeys sealed over nicely for winter stores. Then, about the first of October, I remove the top storeys with their sealed combs to a room arranged for the purpose. I then remove the combs out of every brood chamber and then bring out the sealed combs that I took out of the top storeys, and place six of them in each brood chamber, with division boards on each side of them. Then, about the middle of October, I pack each colony in a winter case on the summer stand, with four inches of leaves on each side, and six inches on top. Before packing, I put in a bridge which has an entrance in it three-eighths scant by three inches, and I never let the entrance get blocked up with snow in winter. When packing, I always take the covers off the brood chambers and put the leaves on the cloth that covers the frames, and then place the lid or cover of the hive on top of the leaves. By having the leaves between the bees and hive lids, the heat will be kept in, all dampness will escape, and then the brood chambers will be kept dry at all times. In warm evenings in spring I take out the division boards and give each colony its full set of combs. The combs that I put in in spring will have more or less honey in them. I then let every colony alone until the fruit bloom is over, unless the weather has been unfavorable during fruit bloom. Between fruit bloom

and clover I see that there is plenty of unsealed honey in the combs; if not, I feed in the evenings until there is, because the larva is never as well fed when all the unsealed stores are used up. In favorable weather the bees will gather abundance from fruit bloom and dandelions to feed the brood well and keep a large quantity of unsealed honey on hand. Then, right in the middle of it all, we sometimes get a frost followed by rainy weather, which cuts off the honey flow so suddenly that the bees have to use up the unsealed stores at once to feed the larva. Then, when the unsealed is used up and no honey coming in, and with a large quantity of larva to feed, the bees will not at such times uncup the sealed stores fast enough to keep pace with the large amount of larva that needs feeding. Then, if the weather keeps backward after that, so that the bees get little or no honey, they will begin to drag out some of the larva; and a little later on we will find dead brood (starved brood). The larva that is lost at such times is the very life blood of the honey business. I always save over plenty of honey in the combs for spring, and then, between fruit bloom and clover, if the season is unfavorable, I go to work in the evenings and fairly boom the colonies. I do not disturb or feed any colonies in early spring. About the first of June I unpack my bees and store the leaves away in a building until the fall. After the packing is taken out, I raise the winter case up half an inch in front, and then keep these winter cases on all summer to shade the colonies from the great heat that we sometimes get from the sun in summer. I have wintered all my bees in these cases since 1875, with the exception of some colonies that I put in a good cellar to test which was the best place to winter. I prize the winter cases very much, as they are very valuable for guarding the bees against the winter frosts and summer sun. With strong colonies crowded on six combs of early, well ripened sealed stores of the best quality, and well packed with leaves on the summer stands, I can bring all colonies into spring becoming in bees, unless some one gets queenless.

Wm. McEvoy.

Woodburn, Jan. 6th, 1893.

SECOND DAY.

The president called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., there being about fifty beekeepers present.

The matter of the reports of affiliated societies was discussed, the reports received not being satisfactory.