

Mr. Darling: There is another point there. I am not prepared to say how much moisture the hives contained when they were set in and when they were put out. It might be that had considerable to do with the lesser or greater variation.

Mr. Pettit: You have that cushion on each hive?

Mr. Darling: On each hive.

Mr. Pettit: You find that an advantage?

Mr. Darling: I prefer it.

Mr. Pettit: There is not so much moisture in the hive as if there was no cushion?

Mr. Darling: No; it doesn't condense there.

Mr. Pettit's father gave me the idea of setting my bees in. I set my bees in and there is an inch more under the back of the board than there is at the front; then I put another inch under the hive front; that brings the hive up level again; when I put a short block right on the front corner and another on the back corner and an inch piece across that so that it leaves a space big enough to put my fist right in between the tier of hives. It is a long strip we used to get when we bought shavings from the saw mill. I put a two inch piece behind and double that piece and that gives my rise at the back of the board, and then I move the block under the front corner again and that brings it up and it makes the tops of my hives level.

Mr. Post: By projecting up the top of the hives wouldn't it be easier for the bees to throw out their dead bees.

Mr. Darling: The bottom boards project and that allows the dead bees to pop out themselves.

Mr. Hall: I think if Mr. Darling noticed those hives covered with

the cushion and those simply covered with the board and raised either the front or the rear he would find no difference so far as the dryness of the hive is concerned. If the hive is raised an inch or an inch and a half in front it gives ventilation to two sides and the front. Nothing touches the bottom board but the back of the hive. There are no bees left on the bottom board.

Speaking of how to raise your hives, we use no strips; we want each tier of hives to be independent of its neighbors and we pack ours four deep and when we disturb one four we don't disturb their neighbors. I would advise those of the gentlemen who are afraid of the bees flying very much to simply use a wet towel; they fit tightly and they won't blow off or won't shift. That is the nicest way to take them off.

Mr. McKnight: How do you get up to the fourth tier in putting in and taking out?

Mr. Hall: One takes hold of the front and another the back part of the bottom board and we set them onto a hand barrow. I have a clamp on all of my hive bottoms and we fasten the hive to the bottom board by a clamp.

Mr. McKnight: I have found difficulty with three tiers.

Mr. Hall: You are a short man (laughter). We put ours up four tiers and we would put them up five but the cellar is not high enough.

Mr. Post: Mine are six inches from the cellar bottom.

Mr. McKnight: I would not like to lift bees four tiers high in putting them into the cellar.

Mr. Hall: Ours are within two inches of the joists under our dwelling room and if it was a foot higher we would put on five instead of four.