

ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Question—Do you find any trouble with the bees building queen cells while the queen is in another part?

Mr. Saunders—Yes, I have that to contend with, but I make it a point to handle those frames and rake the queen cells off.

Mr. Holtermann—There is a point that I admit I am very weak on. When the hive is in that condition, taking out the brood and putting in these combs or foundation, I do not succeed in having them filled with brood, and I don't want to divide up my brood chamber in that way.

Mr. Dickinson—I would suggest that you take out a frame out of a colony you want to hive with queen cells on.

Mr. Holtermann—We don't want to divide them up.

Mr. Pettit—We want to keep them all together in the hive without swarming. I have had fair success in putting foundation into the brood chamber, but I don't like to put in more than one sheet of foundation at a time.

The President—How often do you visit your yard?

Mr. Pettit—Once a week.

Mr. Holtermann—We are now dealing where the stock wants to swarm and you want to prevent swarming. When I reach the condition when there is a likelihood of swarming then I put a sheet in so as to prevent any swarming impulse. If your supers are not crowded that may prevent it, but if they are crowded I haven't been very successful.

Mr. Chrysler—I notice that people wait until the bees have the swarming impulse, and then they start to do something. Why can't we do some-

thing before that time comes? We wait until the disease gets started.

Mr. Holtermann—We want to keep our bees together as long as we can and not do anything we don't need to do, and when the cups are there it is time to act.

Mr. Pettit—If plenty of room and ventilation and shade are given for taking extracted honey, we don't find more than 25% of them at the outside wanting to swarm. I use Langstroth hives.

Mr. Alpaugh—I may say that I had a lot of experience in trying to break up a brood nest in order to keep it from swarming, and I find that taking a sheet in the centre is one of the worst things you can do. It will cause it to swarm, as the queen seems to be shut off. When I want to break up the nest I find to keep the brood together is much better. If you want to add anything, do it outside. If you want to add anything in the centre give clean old comb that the queen will accept at once. Next to that would be three or four starters. I find that the bees don't seem to want to swarm and leave the starters, but they will begin to build on the starters. But it is very hard to say what is best to be done. I wanted to ask Mr. Nolan if he finds from four to six inches of packing necessary?

Mr. Nolan—I think with regard to that, perhaps four inches of packing would be enough, provided it is good packing, but perhaps some people might use four inches, and it would not be good packing. Sawdust is a very good packing. We generally use chaff. Planer's shavings are good, but it is almost impossible to get them in country places. Leaves I don't know anything about. With regard to the swarming, the plan that I have tried to practise we found most satisfactory in some ways; that is, to move the brood from the brood nest

when you find the colony ready to swarm. I don't want to take medication, and we don't want to move the colony until we are ready to swarm. I use a super room and I find you can't do any thing but move the supers up and give them a new sheet. When you find the colony ready to build queen cells, treat them by removing the queen.

I prefer removing the queen at the larval stages. It is better to move the queen in the larval stage than the honey. If you have a drawn comb in the super, put full sheets of foundation in it. I find this satisfactory. I find that the queen is between the supers towards the bottom of the colony. I find empty combs, but there isn't the brood there because if you place the queen in the super, she will move them, and the bees will move the honey in the super to the outside.

Member—How do you entice his supers?

Mr. Holtermann—

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