

ter try it again, and space a great deal wider than you did before. While the mere matter of a quarter inch from centre to centre can make but little difference, yet it is a move in the right direction.

I am not fully prepared to say just how far wide-spacing can be carried on successfully. Perhaps this is a matter that should be governed by latitude; however, I have had good results from a spacing of two inches from centre to centre, and for solid combs of honey I would not space less than one and three-quarters; while if the central combs are not full of honey, nine frames in a ten-frame hive will give good results. The central combs should be spaced wider than the outside ones.

The most successful wintering of bees that has come under my observation, was a colony that wintered on three Langstroth frames, solid full of honey in the centre of a ten-frame hive, with a space of two inches between the combs. What surprised me the most about this colony was the small amount of honey they consumed, and the wonderful vitality of the bees in the spring. Bad weather seemed to have no effect upon them and they quickly built up into a rousing colony, while other colonies in the same yard that were stronger in the fall with closely spaced combs, dwindled to a mere handful of bees. The reason for this difference is easily accounted for. In the former case the bees were clustered together in two solid balls, one on each side of the central comb enabling them to circulate outward and inward, and thus keep up a natural heat with very little consumption of stores. In the latter case, while the bees attempted to cluster in a solid ball, the ball was cut up into thin slices of bees, separated by solid walls of honey with no chance to circulate inward and outward through the centre of the cluster, therefore, they were compelled to consume immense quantities of heat pro-

ducing pollen, and crawl into the cells in order to keep up an unnatural heat, a condition that is often followed by a long train of evils, such as distended abdomens, dysentery, and spring dwindling.

When bees are allowed to build combs as nature has taught them, they usually provide for the above mentioned contingency. But with the advent of moveable frames having deep combs and close spacing with no means of communication through the centre of the winter cluster horizontally, came disaster and death to the bees. Thus thousands of colonies perish during the severe winters, all because beekeepers do not think the instincts of bees worth considering.

It is hardly necessary to add that the sectional hive is the only one that is constructed with an eye to the natural requirements of bees in this respect.

Birmingham, O.

[This very ably expresses our idea upon this question, when we first drew Mr. Root's attention to it. That bees wintered successfully on full combs of honey we knew; while the nest idea was entirely new to us, Mr. Hand's idea of spacing overcomes the objections to the "cold slabs of honey." We are much indebted to Mr. Hand for the article, and trust we may hear from him again.—Ed.]

MEETING OF QUEBEC BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Harry W. Jones.

The second annual meeting of the Quebec Bee-Keepers' Association was held at Montreal in Rieudeau's Hotel on the 10th of November.

Mr. M. C. Peloquin, the president, called the meeting to order about 10 o'clock with about forty-five members present. In his opening address Mr. Peloquin welcomed those present and gave a short account of the work the association had accomplished in the last year.

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