

you put them together one of the poor queens may be saved.

Mr. Heise: I did not advocate uniting weak colonies in my paper; I advocated where there were queenless colonies to unite them with the weak.

Mr. Hall: That is worse still; these queenless bees have borne the fault before.

Mr. Heise: Mr. Hall, in the spring say from about 10th to 20th April, how many bees would you find hatched in the hive?

Mr. Hall: If it is a good stock of bees there will be more bees than we put in in the fall.

Mr. Heise: Your colonies differ from mine.

Mr. Hall: We don't open them except they are hungry; we don't open a stock of bees in our yards until the fruit blossoms. We let weak colonies die if they choose.

Mr. Dickson: Between apple blossoms and clover is a blank; sometimes there is a week and sometimes possibly a week and a half—I am down in the extreme end of Ontario—my practise is not to sell the buckwheat, and we save this buckwheat to feed the larvæ, and when the bees hatch you will have workers, and you have the strong swarm which will work, and the honey will come too.

Mr. McEvoy: I wonder how many here would be able to catch the queen by the wing like Mr. Hall does? I think we would be likely to cut a little bit more than the wing.

Mr. Hall: Not with a knife.

Mr. McEvoy: Take an ordinary farmer, and I think he would take half the bee. I admit that Mr. Hall's remark is true, speaking generally, that medium colonies winter best, the weak ones fizzle out, and the strong

ones will go to pieces, that is, without contracting in the fall of the year; but take good strong stocks and go back to the crowding system in the fall of the year and put in those combs sealed, and they won't go to pieces, because you have stopped the queen from breeding.

Mr. Hall: This is outside business.

Mr. McEvoy: In or out. The strong ones go to pieces, and I am going to fix it so that I can stop that. Coming to the weak colony I will agree with you in the spring of the year. I will put two or three of them together in the fall and I will bring out a colony in the spring on the crowding system and not keep them spread or give them the whole comb or too much territory. During ten days in February of last winter we here in Ontario had a sort of Klondike weather. If the bees are spread out the steam condenses on all the combs outside and some bees starve to death with honey in these outside combs, if they were crowded on full combs all they would have to do would be to lean forward. It is a sure system and it is better than yours, Mr. Hall.

Mr. F. Gemmell: Mr. McEvoy is all right; he crowds them on four or five combs, and there is no place for the queen to lay until they have wintered, and then they commence to boom right along.

Mr. Walton: Why does strong colonies succumb?

Mr. McEvoy: You can break up almost any colony; take good strong colonies spread out going into wintering outdoors and empty, and there is all the chance in the world to lay in the centre, and the bees have to care for the young. The bees become restless and are worn out to no purpose, and you have spring dwindling and fizzling out. You can check