

noon they would clean it up nicely. Every colony gathers in proportion, a strong colony will gather a lot and a weak one a little, and it will stimulate them in proportion to the number of bees. The next time I put in more than the bees could take up before the cool of the afternoon came on and a great many bees were chilled in the tub, so that you have to be very careful. In Brantford, a good many seasons the bees work on the trees in town—they open up first—and then they begin to open up in the country. We have not got that break between fruit and clover that is generally the case, and if the weather is right they get enough so that they do not need to be fed. Two years ago there was a season when day after day the weather was not cold, (no danger of chilling the brood in the hive) but it was wet and the bees did not gather. I have examined hives, and if you will set your bees out, and they will fly, that day the queen will begin to lay, or the next, and if they are not working for a week she will quit laying, and then when they commence she will begin laying again. I am acquainted with a man near Ottawa who, two years ago, stimulated his bees and got half a crop of honey, while men alongside did not stimulate and their bees ran down so that they killed their drones, and these men did not get a particle of honey. It was simply a little investment in the way of stimulating feeding. You have to take your chances. As far as our own bees are concerned, I do think we have not given them due attention at that time of the year, with the result that we have not had the returns we should have had. Mr. Pettit, of Belmont, stimulates in this way; he has plenty of honey in the hive in the fall, he winters well and has strong colonies, he makes a practice of changing all the honey in that hive as much as possible into bees, and the way he does it is by changing the position of the combs in the hives, he keeps changing them around, if they have a full comb of honey they may not touch it.

Mr. Shaver said that Mr. McEvoy informed him one season that every yard he went into that was not fed did not get honey, and every yard that was fed got honey.

**Is The Spreading of Brood in Spring Desirable?—(a) If so, With What Strength of Colony?—(b) At What Season, and How Had it Best be Done?**

**Mr. Shaver—**On a good strong colony I

do not think there is any need of spreading. If the brood is weak, uncap a little and spread; but that cannot be done by every person.

**Mr. Robinson—**I believe if we can get our honey to one end of the frame and group the other, it would be a fine thing to turn one comb around, or every other one, one at first; that would be spreading brood and stimulating at the same time.

**The Chairman—**You take any long frame, and the brood are apt to go into one end; they can make a nice brood nest in one end of the hive.

**Mr. Robinson—**If you have the hive facing the south, the brood will more likely be in that end.

**Mr. Atkinson—**Take the hive, and let it stand in the ordinary way through winter and spring, and you frequently find the brood over so that you can turn and put them any way you like. When we went into the cellar we raised them four inches for a number of years, and I have not noticed that they take it much different than that now.

**Mr. Miller—**In the spring, after the bees are sufficiently strong, I interchange my comb now and again.

**Mr. Holtermann—**Do you find that the time you can do the most good with spreading is when they are pretty near full, or weaker?

**Mr. Miller—**I want a good body of bees: I want brood in four combs.

**Mr. Holtermann—**When you spread through, is your object as much to move honey as it is to spread the brood?

**Mr. Miller—**Both; I want to use up the honey and also give the queen a greater chance without going to the outside of the hive.

**Mr. Armstrong—**Simply get the honey to the centre of the brood and get the brood to the outside, and the time I do it is when the colony is pretty strong. I use a good prolific queen. If there are any beginners here, I would advise them never to attempt spreading brood.

**Mr. Heise—**If I have a few weak colonies, (which usually occurs in the spring,) I open the hive and contract the brood chamber by dropping in a division: as soon as they require more combs, instead of adding them on the side I spread the brood frames and drop them in between. Whatever the season is, I do this when the colony requires more room.

**Mr. Craig—**A judicious spreading of brood is all right; we have done a little of it, but it requires so much caution that