

Brant and Adjoining Counties Bee-keepers' Convention

(Mr. E. R. Root of Medina, Ohio, having arrived was requested to take the chair.)

Mr. Root.—This is a little bit unexpected and I hardly knew what was meant when I was requested to step over here and take this chair. If you had given me a little warning I would have had a speech ready. I certainly appreciate the honor you have given me, and I am very glad to meet you all here. I understand Mr. S. D. House of Camillus, N. Y., has a paper on "Building up Colonies for the Honey Flow."

Mr. House—Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen: I am going to give you a talk instead of a paper, the subject is one of much importance and has many factors. As every structure should have a foundation so our subject will have its foundation. We will build that foundation in the fall previous to the honey flow and the material we shall use for that foundation will be the queen. In the past half century apiculture has made some very rapid strides. We have improved our implements, our hives and manipulation, but can I say as much for our race of bees. I believe that if we were to import Italians from their native haunts that we would find the weakness of our race or strain of bees to-day. Queen breeders have shown us what can be done by selection in breeding golden Italians. They have a variety there that is good, in its way, and if that can be done in one line it can be done in another. Our Italians fall in my idea of coming up to the right standard of prolificness, and if we are to branch out into high pressure brood rearing we certainly must have high pressure

queens. We find there are several races which have desirable characteristics. For instance, there is the Carniolan. They are wonderful wax producers, not only that, but they are prolific and I think they are superior to anything I ever saw in the Italians. I have said that the queen is the foundation, and I am going to mention that the queen must be young, for in youth we have all the vitality we will ever get, so with a young queen in the fall we may breed up the colony to a strong populous condition, ready for the winter and that colony wintered outdoors with good protection, or wintered in a good repository, will winter well and come out in the spring comparatively in the same condition.

When they are removed from the repository our first duty should be to make an examination of each colony and find out the true condition within. They may not have enough, or they may have far too much stores and I would about as soon have them short of stores as have the hive crowded with honey. Not only that, but we must see that the hive is properly cleaned out and our next point is to make a protection for the brood chambers. The ordinary cover furnished by supply dealers is not sufficient protection. To get the best results we should have a cover that will carry a non-conductive protection of some kind and something of the telescope cover we have in use.

In the course of fifteen days or about that time the queen has occupied all the space, and this will bring us to the point of temperature, if we desire to spread the brood of that colony we must have a higher temperature. I believe Newport says that a bee when quiet takes from three to five respirations, and is then quiet for several minutes, then takes three or four more respirations, etc., but when they are very active, he says, they take 160 re-

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