

Shaver says, or with a can with fine perforations. I believe the sooner we give up, and the more we condemn the feeding back of honey, the less trouble we will have in many ways.

The chairman asked if any of the delegates found a tendency on the part of the honey to sour.

Mr. Shaver replied that he had never had any trouble, if the honey was good; he would not use poor honey.

The Chairman—Syrup will not sour, but honey alone takes up the moisture and sours very quickly. What little I have to say about spring feeding has been mostly between apple bloom and clover. I did as Mr. Holtermann says; I practised it many years ago. Take a tin and perforate it full of little holes, lay your comb in the bottom of a 22x22 and hold the can up a little and let it stream down. You can fill every cell in the comb if you want to; it is better to fill one comb well than to fill into three or four and have them scattered from the bees. You have to feed according to the strength of your colony; if you have a weak colony you want to give them only a little feed, so that they can take care of it.

#### Is Stimulative Feeding Desirable?—Mention the Conditions.

A member introduced this question to the convention. He said that two years ago it was not very cold, but the bees were in all the time and did not gather much and in a season like that it paid to stimulate, and the people that did stimulate got good results. Another season, when the bees are out every day and gathering honey and so on, it might not pay. This is the question; under what conditions?

Mr. Shaver said he had done it some years and other years he had not; one year he gained by it and another year a frost came and cut the blossoms, the clover was hurt, and he had to feed quite a while. He saved his by feeding a little in dishes in the open yard.

Mr. Robinson In 1892 I uncapped every cell in the hives, and in April, when the bees swarmed, I never had larger swarms—eight and ten pounds to the hive. I sold some hives and know what they weighed. That was the only time I ever tried it.

Mr. Atkinson—I do not believe in it at all. Last year I had a lot of honey over and I fed them every day for a month or more, and some that I did not feed swarmed first, so I came to the conclusion

that it did not amount to much. I find a weaker colony will overtake a strong one sometimes when it comes to swarming. Last year I had several swarms before those I fed, and I fed them perhaps fifty or sixty pounds. I fed good ones, the best I had in the yard; when they did swarm I had good, decent swarms, but I ought to have.

Mr. Armstrong—I have never done a great deal of stimulating but I think it would pay every time. Between fruit bloom and light clover there is a gap, and I think it would pay (although I have hardly done enough to tell) every time there is a dearth of pasture. It would keep your bees moving along and it would do them good to be stimulated right at that period, even if they have plenty of stores.

Mr. Roach—I was ten years on a farm, rather in an isolated position, nice locality, under a south and western bush, facing the south-east, and I stimulated by feeding in a trough ten or fifteen rods out. I hewed out a trough and filled it with limbs and straw, and I would put in the feed and have them swarming by the 15th or 20th of May. If there was a west or north wind they were sheltered and could go and come without being chilled. Under circumstances like those I do not think there is anything better to have your bees in fine shape for the harvest. My neighbors would say "My bees are not swarming; they are dying off every day," while mine were swarming. You, perhaps, could not do that unless you fed your neighbor's too.

Mr. Heise—I never stimulate, except in cases like Mr. Armstrong's—simply to tide them over a dearth. If you set them back it may take them weeks to regain themselves. Two years ago I fed 140 lbs. of feed, and it returned me 1000 lbs of honey. Before that dearth commenced I had colonies preparing to swarm and I expected they would give up the idea, but under the feeding, the majority of them, while perhaps it did not further preparations much, yet they held their own.

Mr. Mitchner—We tried stimulating feeding but do not approve of it.

Mr. Holtermann—It depends upon the conditions a good deal. Mr. Craig, Mr. Grey and others have tried a good many ways, and where the bees can fly, if for any reason they are not gathering much or cannot gather, I believe the tub or trough is a very good method. We put out a tub, put warm syrup in it, and put a lot of straw in. I put in enough so that before cool weather came on in the after-