

H. R. Boardman—I have made and used sections and supers five inches deep before I ever heard of such things.

A. I. Root spoke of queens laying in a circle, and thought that deeper frames like the Langstroth, were more desirable than sectional, on that account.

H. R. Boardman—I have known a cross-bar in the centre of a comb, to stop the queen from laying on the opposite side. I cannot look favorably upon the sectional hive; perhaps from prejudice, but I think not.

The Secretary—I used a sectional hive last season, but I find enough disadvantages to deter me from changing the present mode of it.

E. R. Root—What about the thumb-screws? Is there not a difficulty in the manipulation of frames?

Dr. Tinker—I find no trouble to manipulate Meddon's frames, after getting the first ones out; but frequently, that is quite difficult.

Dr. Mason—I do not think that the sectional brood-chamber is a practical success. I like to have my frames so that I can lift them out and look at them. What are the advantages of reversing?

Dr. Tinker—The only advantage of reversing, is to get the frames filled with comb; if not filled, queen-cells will be built at the bottom, during swarming time; but if filled, they will be built along the centre.

E. R. Root—I think it quite an advantage to have full frames of comb.

A. S. Goodrich—I have had experience with full frames; used wired frames, and let the foundation come to the bottom-bar.

H. R. Boardman—Comb fastened at the sides, is sufficient for extracting.

A. S. Goodrich—If three sides fastened, make the combs quite secure, will not four sides fastened make them more so?

Dr. Tinker—I like to have the combs fastened to the bottom-bar nearly the whole length, leaving holes enough for the bees to crawl through.

G. R. Morris—When the foundation is fastened to the bottom-bar, the bees cut it out.

H. R. Boardman—I do not want combs fastened to the bottom-bar, as the combs will be sure to sag or bulge just above the bar. Reversing the brood-chamber is entirely impracticable. In reversing in hot weather the comb would be soft and drop over.

Dr. Tinker—I can reverse brood-chambers in April, and have the frames filled without danger of falling over.

Henry Bates—I want the combs down to the bottom-bars, and no wires.

Dr. Mason—Do you run for comb honey?

Henry Bates—Yes.

Dr. Mason—You have no experience then in handling combs?

Adjourned to 1.30 p.m.

The afternoon session was called to order by President Root, and the topic for discussion was,

BEE-KEEPING IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER PURSUITS.

Frank A. Eaton led the discussion as follows: Bee-keeping as a pursuit is of such magnitude, and requires so much attention and thought, that to couple it successfully with other avocations, requires rare business qualities and good judgment. The question as stated leaves it open,

as to whether bee-keeping shall have the dignity of business, or be simply an adjunct, or a recreation. I take it that the question this convention chooses to consider is the keeping of bees in such numbers as to raise it above a mere play thing.

To keep bees at all, means time and work, and as the number of colonies increase, so must the other business be neglected, and those professions and callings which afford and give the most time and leisure are the best suited to go hand in hand with bee-keeping.

Perhaps the best idea I can give of how bee-keeping can be carried on in connection with another pursuit would be to cite my own case. I manage from 75 to 150 colonies of bees each season; they require my entire time and attention from March until October. I prepare my hives, sections, and in fact make all preparations for the busy season during March and April, as I ship bees and queens, beginning by May 1.

I also run my apiary for both comb and extracted honey (principally comb), and in that my time is most busily occupied until the first of October. Then I am to get my honey nearly all marketed by the first or middle of November.

The bees have now occupied my entire time from eight to eight and a-half months of the year, leaving from three and a-half to four months that bee-keeping alone cannot fill.

Having been in the music business prior to my keeping bees it gave me considerable experience in this line, so that at the close of the bee and honey season I lay in a stock of pianos and organs on consignment for the holiday trade. I realise several hundred dollars each season from those odd months, and thereby fill in the year. The supply business goes well with bee-keeping at all times of the year.

Small fruit and market gardening are well suited to bee-keeping, but as the care of each come about the same time, help will be required. However, the benefit bees do to the fruit bloom in the way of fertilization more than pays for any extra help needed.

Another pursuit that is generally conceded to go hand in hand with bee-keeping is farming, but I am of the opinion that this is not true. I do not believe that any man can be a successful bee-keeper and farmer at the same time, as the requirements of each are numerous and require the most care and attention at the same time. If one is cared for the other is sure to be neglected.

Dr. Mason—When I farmed I made a success of both.

A. I. Root—It is not best to put all your eggs in one basket. I recollect how a man once wrote to me for prices of forty colonies of bees. I advised him to buy only two or three; and better still, only a nuclei and stick to his other business. He accepted the advice and finally made a success of bee-keeping.

C. E. Jones—I cannot quit farming nor keeping bees; they go well together. I get everything ready for the bees in the winter. There is more profit in my bees than in my farm, but I want both.

A. S. Goodrich—I made a success of farming but failed with bees, except to get honey enough for home use.

N. Hutches—I made a success with the bees.