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WHOLE No
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Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

(Continued from page 34.)

Mr. McEvoy: In the winter of '98 I put one-half of my bees in the cellar and the other half I packed and left on the summer stand. In some cases they had sealed stores. Where I had a very strong stock outside I brought it inside. They wintered pretty well in the cellar, I thought, and when I took them out as far as consuming the stores concerned, they had used rather little in the cellar.

Fixter: Did you weigh them?

McEvoy: No, but they didn't weigh quite enough. They seemed to consume more in the cellar than they did outside.

McKnight: I think yours is an extraordinary experience in that connection.

Darling: There are several things touched upon here and perhaps could give a little experience on the same line. In regard to wintering I have used sawdust and cork dust. I have not tried wintering in the cellar at all; I live where it is too warm near the North pole—but

for years I took off the propolised sheet and put on a cotton cushion filled with sawdust or cork dust (I brought the saw dust from the saw mill and the sash factory) and I fail to see very much difference in their effect, only I thought the sawdust from the saw mill was not quite as warm and the cork dust is a little dryer. There is so much evaporation from bees that if you take a little piece of lath and leave it lying on top of the cushion, without any cover on at all, if you lift that piece of lath up any time after it has been there a few hours there will be a wet spot on that cushion the size of that piece of lath. If nothing touches the cushion it is dry all winter long and the sawdust is dry. Lift the cushion and put your hand under it and it is warm and cosy on top of the sheet, if there is a sheet underneath.

I had formerly tight bottom boards and that is the reason I took off the propolised sheet. Lately I have taken off the bottom board, left the propolised sheet on, and put the cushion on; that allows no moisture to get through, but I raise up my hive at the front—I don't like going to the back to let them down—and I find that they winter just as well and better than they did without the propolised sheet and with the bottom board tight and there is no danger of there being any dampness above and my combs and bees are not as damp

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