

Mr. Boardman asked the gentlemen who experienced trouble in using old combs to explain how they secured these combs.

Mr. Green used white new combs, such as the fine white built by the bees.

R. R. Murphy put in an upper story in the fall, and allowed the bees to fill the frames with comb, then extracted the honey, and cut the combs, fit them into the sections and use them the next spring.

Mr. J. Bull favored sections filled with comb, the bees commenced work in them sooner, and the honey was of fine appearance when finished.

James Heddon, years ago, used sections of figured spruce. When he began using white poplar he had on hand 300 or 400 sections of figured spruce filled with comb; each year they were placed upon the hive, but sections of foundation were finished first; some of the old sections were left over each year, and it was three or four years before they were finally finished up.

President Miller had had the bees fill and finish sections of comb before they began work in sections filled with foundation, in fact, the bees did not commence on the foundation at all, as the honey season came to a close.

H. R. Boardman thought much of this confliction came about as the result of different management. He said that Mr. S. F. Newman of Ohio, had informed him that had it not been for his stock of sections filled with comb he would have secured no honey the past season, as it was, he had 2,000 or 3,000 lbs. Mr. Boardman did not favor the use of old discolored combs or soiled sections. In hiving swarms on empty frames, if no combs are placed in the supers there will be a loss at first from lack of storage.

W. Z. Hutchinson preferred to use the empty combs at the opening of the season. He would use a whole case of combs. The bees start in them sooner; the first honey gathered is placed in the sections; the brood nest is thus relieved of all "pressure" and more brood is the result, while the honey is just as fine. He could not understand why Mr. Heddon had the trouble he did.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Sec.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### Setting Bees In and Other Matters.

I AM in favor of putting bees into winter quarters early for several reasons. Especially is it necessary to do so after a honey season like the past one. When the honey fails early in the season from drought or any other cause the brooding ceases correspondingly early, and hence the bees to be wintered are correspondingly old. This being the case, the vitality of those bees to be wintered must be conserved in every proper way, and their "days lengthened out" as far as may be. Now, to conserve the vitality of the bee and lengthen its life we must reduce its activity to a minimum. We all know, or ought to know, how to do this. In the first place nothing contributes more to serene content, tranquility of mind, and quiet quiescence

in a well-bred honey bee than a full pantry, *i.e.*, 25 to 30 lbs. of good capped honey in the hive. In the second place the bee must have a warm, dry and comfortable house to live in. In a word it must be so well "fixed" in its domicile that it need not worry about "grub" for the future, need not have the bother of "drying off" from the leakage through the hive of every rain, and need not gormandize in order to keep warm. Right here let me remark that bee-culture in this climate needs two things in this connection pretty badly—a hive that will keep out the rain and a hive that will keep in the heat. I have yet to see a hive of this description come from any factory, any supply-man, or any workshop except in a very few cases the bee-keepers' own workshop. Hives there are—double-walled—that will retain the heat very well, but even they in many cases will let in the rain. They will all do it, of every style and make, from every factory. And this is a more serious evil than we might imagine, and ought to be remedied. I venture to say from what I have seen that fully three-fourths of the hives in use in any part of the province, taking them all as you come to them, will leak or admit the rain more or less. It is hardly necessary to stop here to recount the bad effects upon the colony of a leaking hive during a wet season, and in the spring and fall of any kind of season. Suffice it to say that the home of a colony of bees—to be worthy of the name of a home—ought to be rain proof, and ought to be warm, so constructed that it will retain the heat and at the same time admit of free ventilation in hot weather. It seems to me that hitherto too little of the mechanical ingenuity displayed in bee-hive construction has been expended in this direction. Let the apiarian inventors and hive-makers take the hint and turn the swelling stream of their ingenuity slightly into another channel and this *desideratum* will doubtless soon be achieved.

Well, then, to prolong the life of winter bees they must be kept dry, cosy and comfortable in the fall and must have plenty of stores. And especially should they be dry when put away in the cellar. I must differ from the JOURNAL on a point in this connection. In last issue it is recommended that the propolis or summer quilt be removed *after* the bees are placed in the cellar and one substituted that will allow the moisture to escape. At any rate the JOURNAL states that is the way they themselves do it. Now, I submit, the propolis quilt ought to be removed *some* days *before* the bees are put away, and this for two important reasons, *viz.*: to secure dry combs and stores when put away, and to avoid agitating the bees. We have all noticed that