

Mr. Gemell—Received from the producers.

Mr. Holtermann—Yes. You see, my proposition is the very proposition in regard to what Professor Shutt says; those samples were not taken particularly with a view to the percentage of water but simply the foreign matter added. If we get these samples from all over the country, or wherever we see fit, then, twenty per cent. genuine honeys run from 18, we will take only the capped honey, and in that way we will begin to get some sort of data in regard to that question, which will be something I believe which has never been done before.

Mr. Gemmell—There is a great difference in the specific gravity of different honeys. In regard to eighteen and up to sometimes thirty per cent, and if we can fix a standard of say twenty-five per cent. I do not know after all that there would be any particular harm in doing it. As far as the percentage of water is concerned, the public know that there must be water in honey.

Professor Shutt—If you wish to obtain a standard, no body of expert men would go hither and thither into the highways and by-ways and collect samples. Before they can begin to put any reliance upon their data they must know the history of the sample; that is a first requisite, that the obtaining of those samples shall be in the hands of thoroughly conscientious and expert men, and that they then shall be handed over to chemists; and I might say I have just left the Minister of Agriculture and I think he is anxious to assist in any way. For my own part, we shall be very glad to co-operate with the Inland Revenue Department, and you would then have corroborative results. If you induce the Inland Revenue Department to take up this matter I think I might, without any hesitation, say we should on our part, providing the work was not too great, be very glad to co-operate with Mr. MacFarlane in ascertaining these per centages and then you would have data to go upon.

Mr. Hall—There is one thing with regard to the difficulty of getting data. One year we will get honey and the second day after it is gathered it is fit for consumption; another year we will have wet, drizzly, old country weather and we cannot get honey that is fit to put onto the market, it makes no difference what we do. If this honey is gathered and presented for analysis in a wet season the percentage will be very different to what it would be in a dry season.

Professor Shutt—Are there any data to show that?

Mr. Hall—I am speaking as a practical apiarist; I know nothing about chemistry. As a practical apiarist, I say that in a good basswood flow and a very hot dry season, you get your honey in two days from the time it is gathered fit to go upon the market as a first-class article, and if you get a wet season, you may keep it four weeks or six weeks and it is not good then. I do not know of any data.

I will second Mr. Holtermann's motion.

The president put the motion which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. J. W. Sparling read his very interesting paper on the "Management of Bees in Spring."

MANAGEMENT OF BEES IN SPRING.

The spring management of bees should commence the previous autumn. Though this may sound like an Ilibernianism, yet 'tis true that upon the condition in which our bees go into winter quarters, and upon their wintering depend, the profit of the next season. They should be strong in numbers, well supplied with stores, and have a young queen. These conditions being present, with reasonable care in wintering, spring dwindling need have few terrors, and necessary spring management is reduced to a minimum.

The matter of having young queens I am coming to regard as of the first importance, a failing queen at this time meaning an unprofitable colony for the season. I am aware that it is generally held as being the better plan to let the bees do their own superseding; this may possibly be correct where Italians are kept, but where the bees are of mixed blood, as is the case in most apiaries, there are too many failing queens and consequently unproductive colonies when the superseding is left entirely to the bees, and I would be disposed to advise replacing all queens after their second season.

Setting out the bees in spring is something to which I find myself looking eagerly forward; while this may seem a simple matter, yet 'tis fraught with some perplexities. For instance: Shall we return each colony to the stand occupied by it during the previous fall? Shall we set them out in the regular order and only part of them at a time? or shall we put them out without regard to previous position, in regular order and all at once? I don't know that it is the best, but for me