

Meeting of the Senate of Canadian Bee-Keepers.

What is the Best Mode of Preventing Increase in the Number of Stands, and yet take care of the swarms that will come out?

This question was introduced by Mr. Fleming, Everett, Mich.

Mr. Gemmell. If I had all the bees I wanted, I would have the swarm on the old stand, and place the old hive alongside and apply a cone and run the bees in the old hive every day they came out. They would be excluded from the old hive and go in with the swarm; at the end of twenty-one days you would have all your brood hatched out and could make what disposition you liked with that hive of combs—for extracted honey, if you like.

A delegate. What would you do with your queen cells?

Mr. Gemmell. Nothing. The bees will attend to that. If there is a queen that hatches and she goes out, she cannot go back again; if she does, they will kill her; if they killed the old queen it would be all the better.

Mr. Heise. Wouldn't there be a little danger of moth in the hive?

Mr. Gemmell never a particle.

Mr. Armstrong. When I got about as many as I wanted, and did not hive on the old stands—for instance, I have a hive over here that has swarmed five or six days before one that swarms to-day—I take that swarm and hive it into the other one. I have done that several times and it seems to work successfully, and it is very little work; just take the one that came out five or six days ago and put it right in with the other one; every swarm I have done that to has worked all right.

Do not touch the cells at all. I always give my swarms plenty of time to settle.

Mr. Atkinson. Don't you think it would be surer if you cut the cells out of the oldest one—the one that was out first?

Mr. Armstrong. I think there would be danger of them issuing again.

Mr. Holtermann. We have never wanted totally to keep down increase; but what I consider very good is to double up brood chambers; put one on top of another keep down increase that way.

Mr. Atkinson. A gentleman informed me that he hives on the old stand, then places the old one at right angles with the new one, and by the seventh day he has it facing the same as the new swarm. Instead of moving into some other place in the yard he takes it and moves it over on the other side in the same direction—move around in the same way as the new one is; by that time you have the greatest amount of bees in the new colony. He raises the top up and sets one colony on top of the other one.

Mr. Fleming. Mr. Holtermann's idea is the one I follow.

Mr. Holtermann. With my system you can get down to no increase; at the same time, it is not absolutely necessary to get down to that and the few increased colonies you get in that way can be used to good advantage in the yard.

Mr. Alpaugh. There may be many different ways of keeping down increase; if you have a good strong colony swarm midding early, get what bees you can from it, take the hive and set it on top of some weak one, and allow that to be one hive till it swarms. For the rest of the season you can do what you like with it. I like a good lot of bees for comb honey. I have had as high as five swarms in one heap working on comb honey, and done well too—made the nicest honey we ever had. Have plenty of empty room below, just for twenty-four hours, until they start above. I had about one hundred colonies, and would have about eight or