

Mr Pettit mentioned one thing that I do not agree with him in. He said he wanted a large hive to give the queen every chance to lay. It is my opinion, although I am not sure that I am borne out by any particular authority, a queen can be overdone, and when a queen is overdone and fails to fill the cells with eggs the swarming fever has commenced in the hive, and pollen is put into the cells. It is quite possible to overdo a queen and I think it is better to have a smaller hive, contract her, as it were, and let her fill every cell up with brood and fill right up to the corners, not have any honey down below, and when you put on your top story the division between the brood and the honey is just the excluder. Once you get them into the super and then by lifting that super soon enough and putting another under you have robbed them again of the honey. That is likely to retard the brood swarming. That cannot be done in my opinion with a twelve framed hive. If it is fruit bloom honey it will be carried up and spoil your other honey. If you have a lot of honey it would be better to have your supers on and extract them out before your white honey comes in. You have the honey in the honey house and you can feed it back in the fall if you want to.

Mr Pettit has too much truck altogether in the brood nest for me. Five dummies for every hive! If he had one hundred hives he would have five hundred dummies and it would take a wagon to carry them. If he had three apiaries see what an amount of lumber he would have and it is so expensive. I don't see any need for the dummies at all; if you hive your swarm on starters they will go right up to the top story and cluster along the starters and draw down the centre one a little. If they have lots of work above they won't build those

combs down at all in that season. If you want buckwheat honey in the latter part of the season that would not apply. It would be better to have a good brood chamber and lots of brood to raise bees for what you want them later on. The outside ones where he puts his dummies will hardly ever be started at all if you work the top stories or sections right. I don't see any advantage in the dummies. Then as to one full comb, I don't believe in that. If I used a comb for the purpose of keeping the pollen down there I would cut two thirds of it out and just leave about an inch or two inches at the top and let them put the pollen in there and keep them clustered up instead of clustered down. Of course I think a second shake is necessary to prevent after swarming and to get the force of the bees into the hive again. I am taking your honey off, about a week after.

Mr Pettit: I practised leaving the parent stock behind the swarm for a week and then moving it to a new stand.

Mr Sibbald: Where do those bees come back to that you fool when you take the old hive again?

Mr Pettit: They fool around a while and then come around to the front of the bees.

Mr Sibbald: I don't like that "fool around". In my opinion they generally get cross and if you are walking through the yard they will let you know. You can remove the hive and a certain number of bees will come back to the old stand and do not get enough of them; too many of them go with the hive and make the new location. In an out yard where you have a second swarm and the first one comes off the ones you have screened you are likely to lose the first and best swarm you have. You don't want to take any chance in an out yard where you have