

queens to the brood. With these, I believe, we have gotten the two most important points in the production of extracted honey.

J. K. Williamson—Several years ago I put about 30 Carniolan queens into the apiary for Mr Wheeler. My partner and I afterwards bought that apiary. The Carniolan queens, perhaps, were mostly superseded before we bought it, but the nearest Carniolans in the apiary after we got it were the bees that brought in the biggest amount of honey.

H. H. Moe—I would like to ask Mr. Benton how many queens he rears out of a good, strong colony—how many cells does he start?

Frank Benton—Well, I sometimes start 100 in a colony to get good, well developed queens. I have seen in the hives of some of these Eastern races of bees, where they had prepared sometimes as high as 250 cells, nearly all producing well developed queens. It is a mistaken idea to suppose a large number could not develop. Simply because our Italians and blacks do not produce a large number is no reason why we should not get them. I do not hesitate to rear anywhere from 50 to 100. I would not hesitate to rear 200 if I had powerful colony.

Mr. Hyde—My views are the same. We have at present five or six different strains, and we try to find out which are the best for all purposes. Cyprians are good bees for honey, but we can not stand the temper. Our men do not like to work where they are liable to be stung so often. We have decided to use nothing but Holy Land bees for our purposes.

Frank Benton—I may say I spent a good many days in Apiaries in Palestine, and at the same time I had an apiary of over 200 colonies in Cyprus, and worked most of the

time handling these bees with perfect impunity, while in Palestine I had to use clouds of smoke. Now, Syrian bees and bees of Palestine differ very much, and in the first importations brought to this country, in 1880, these two races were mixed, badly mixed, and the term "Holy Land" now covers them both. They differ considerably, and in temper are far inferior to the Cyprians. An occasional Cyprian colony shows as bad temper as a large number of bees of Palestine, but, all in all, the Cyprians are decidedly better tempered than Holy Land bees. Where that does not hold good, the Cyprians have become hybridized, and likewise the Holy Lands, and this has brought in the gentle element. I have tested that.

Mr. Hyde—I would like to say that Mr Benton must have gotten his from a different source than that from which we got ours. They are very gentle bees. I think they are as gentle as Italians; that is, pure Holy Land bees. I am not talking about something mixed up with Cyprians.

Mr. Benton—I think you got them from Mr. Baldensperger, in Jerusalem. That is where I established an apiary myself—that very apiary. Further, I have had constant experience with these bees for years, and I have been in his apiary and travelled near them, and moved all their colonies, some 600. They were supplied to me all the time I was in the East, afterwards when I was in Munich, Germany. It is just possible that you got a gentle type of that bee. By the side of it you may get fierce ones. The same thing may occur, perhaps, with the Cyprians, though perhaps, in four cases out of five you will get rather easily managed ones, while in the fifth, rather fierce ones.