

cellar, and all other particulars. We do not think we have had any description such as this from you in the past, and as you are so uniformly successful, your method will be of much value. As to painting hives, our time is so taken up that we are seldom able to get our hives painted before they are needed for swarms, so that nearly all our colonies are in unpainted hives the present year. We have not as yet discerned the decided difference you speak of so positively, and there may be a good deal in it. We shall observe. Mr. R. McKnight says it is not necessary or desirable to have ventilation through the sides of the hive. His ideas are given in the following article:

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Painting Hives

**Y**ES, I paint my hives. I would as soon leave my front fence unpainted as my hives. Whether "paint interferes harmfully with ventilation" depends upon the means provided for ventilation. If ventilation be needed above, below and around the hive, then paint is an interference to some extent. I don't think it necessary or desirable that air be admitted through the whole surface of the hive, otherwise the bees would not prevent this by propolizing the interior surface of the hive. It may be admitted that they know what is good for themselves. A writer in some of the bee papers lately stated that unpainted hives afford better ventilation than painted hives, that they look just as well and last as long. The first statement may be true, the last is contrary to experience and common sense.

R. McKNIGHT.

Owen Sound, Ont.

We must contend, as does Mr. McKnight, that an apiary of painted hives looks a great deal better than a lot of unpainted ones.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Lambton Bee-Keepers.

**T**HE members of the above association assembled in Butler's Hall, Wyoming, on Thursday, April 10. There was a large attendance, considering the very bad state of the roads.

After reading the minutes of the previous meeting, calling the roll of members, and receiving the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, the convention entered on a discussion pertain-

ing to the handling and management of bees. The first question being:

#### HOW BEST TO PREVENT SWARMING.

Mr. J. B. Aches said that excessive swarming could be controlled, but it was a hard matter to totally prevent it. He thought the best way was to give plenty of room and practise the storifying system. Some bee-keepers practiced caging the queen.

The president said there were a number of different principles to prevent swarming:

- 1.—Give them plenty of room.
- 2.—Keep them well shaded.
- 3.—Caging the queen.
- 4.—By practising the Heddon process (which method he followed).

Everybody present took a lively interest in the discussion, and the novice was strongly advised not to attempt the caging process.

#### SHADE VS. SUN FOR HIVES.

The first discussion led to one on the above subject, as to whether bees would do as well sitting in the shade as in the sun. The decision was to the effect that they did not.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

#### HOW MANY BEES BE WINTERED WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF HONEY.

Mr. Grainger liked his bees to have plenty of honey during the winter, and have them good and strong in the spring. He, last fall, put away two colonies, one a hybrid and one an Italian; both were put away alike, and he could not see any difference in the amount of stores consumed.

Mr. Aches said that quite often a nucleus, or small colony, could consume more honey than a large one. He had wintered on five pounds of honey, but again another winter the same colony would consume 20 or 25 lbs. of stores. For cellar wintering he liked an even temperature.

The president liked a circulation of air through the cellar. A general discussion followed on ventilation.

#### AGE OF QUEENS.

Mr. Brown thought that two years was the limit—that old queens were likely to cause fertile workers.

None of the other members could agree with him, all holding to the idea that after a queen became mated, she during her life had the power of laying both worker and drone eggs; the cause of fertile workers was on account of the absence of a queen.

#### HOME MADE HIVES.

Whether was it best for a beginner to manufacture his own hives, or should he procure them of someone experienced in making them?