

**Garden and Orchard.****Keiffer's Hybrid Pear.**

This new fruit is a very remarkable one, and in many respects valuable. Chief among its merits is its early bearing. If a tree is set out at three years from the bud, (which is the age usually preferred), it will in four cases out of six, produce fruit the second year from planting. So here we have all the merits of a standard tree, and the early production of the dwarf; this is of great value. Again, for hardiness it is unequalled by any other variety. For productiveness it is equal to any, but cannot of course surpass some of the older varieties. For canning and preserving it is excellent, but as a dessert fruit it is not more than third rate. Contrary to the usual custom of standard pear trees, it seems to flourish on sandy soil equally as well as on clay.

**Coal Ashes for Strawberries.**

E. S. Goff, of the New York Experiment Station, says: "Three years ago, at Dr. Sturtevant's suggestion, a bed of Sharpless strawberries was planted out and heavily mulched with coal ashes. The object was to see if this material would not act beneficially in keeping down weeds. It has done this in a marked degree, but this is not all. The yield from the plants has been more abundant than from another bed of the same variety that has received excellent culture of the ordinary kind. The plants have been almost entirely free from blight, though the Sharpless blights badly here when grown in the ordinary way. I should have stated that the bed has received no culture since the mulching, except to remove the weeds that were strong enough to grow through the three inches of coal ashes."

**Fruit in British Columbia.**

Mr. A. McD. Allan writes from British Columbia that the Province is far behind in fruit growing. California and neighboring states furnish an inferior quality of pears and apples. He deplores the apathy of the people to their own interests. Where trees are planted they are poorly cared for. The trees being overgrown with moss, and unhealthy in appearance, limbs are chopped off without regard to the future usefulness or beauty of the tree, while the utmost care is really necessary, as the crops of apples are so heavy that the trees are scarcely able to carry them. Mr. Allan thinks an association similar to the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association would be of great benefit to the Province. He says further:—They have magnificent stretches of valley land where fruit could be grown to perfection, if given proper attention, and which would be comparatively easy, as the soil is easily cultivated, and the climate very favorable. This state of affairs should not surprise Mr. Allan, who has had so much experience in Ontario, where fruit growing has received little attention in comparison to what it should have had until quite recently. Even now, with all our advantages, a majority of our farmers will tell us that it does not pay to grow apples, and yet the fact remains, that if properly cared for the orchard will yield a greater profit than any other department of the farm, even at the low prices of this season.

Mr. A. finds the people on the prairies much more alive to their interests in forestry and fruit growing than those of British Columbia, although their facilities are not nearly so great, and there is little doubt that the interest taken in forestry in Manitoba and the North-west Territories will prove of great benefit in future years, and will doubtless, to a certain extent, exert a beneficial influence on the climate.

**The Apiary.****Outside Wintering.**

Quite a lengthy discussion followed upon the above subject. The general results from outside wintering by members present, appeared to be that there was less spring dwindling from colonies wintered outside, but that they consumed more stores than if wintered indoors. The bees should be packed in sawdust or chaff before the cold weather arrived, which would be likely to penetrate the hive.

**Bee-Keepers in Convention.**

The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association has been in existence nearly ten years. Before incorporation, the annual meetings were held in Toronto, and generally during the time the Toronto Industrial Exhibition was held. Since incorporation it has held one meeting in Toronto, one at Woodstock, and the last one, January 8th and 9th, at Owen Sound. The next regular meeting will be at Belleville, the time being the second Wednesday and Thursday in January, 1890.

There will, however, be a special general meeting, probably before that time, to meet the International at Brantford, as that body will meet at that place. The meeting at Owen Sound was, perhaps, the most poorly attended since the organization of the Association, but when we consider the failure of the honey crop of 1888, this will not be wondered at; the condition of the roads throughout the Province at the time, and the locality, had doubtless something more to do with the meagre attendance.

It is, however, gratifying to know that the season of 1888 has been a very prosperous one. The membership is now 231, making nearly 80 more than the previous year, which was also the best on record up to that time. This association is now the largest Bee-keepers' Association on the American continent.

Martin Emigh, Holbrook, the President, called the meeting to order at two p. m. of the first day. The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand to expend of \$255.75.

The Secretary in his report showed that about 1000 invitations had been sent out to bee-keepers, inviting them to become members. The affiliated societies numbered eight, being the Listowel, Mount Forest, Western Ontario, Norfolk, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand. The number of colonies held by the members of these associations is, spring count, 2,717; fall count, 3,138; pounds of comb honey taken 10,177, pounds of extracted honey taken 22,638. The County of Haldimand has evidently not taken one pound of honey, and the Listowel not five pounds per colony. It is fair to assume that the best of the reports have been given in, and this will show how great the failure has been.

The President, in his annual address, stated that although the past season had not been a good one for the production of honey, there was much to be thankful for. He referred to the appointment of the Hon. Charles Drury, as Minister of Agriculture, and thought the appointment would meet with the approval of all bee-keepers.

Reference was made to the increased facilities and inducements offered by various agricultural societies, for the displays of honey and apian supplies.

A paper was now read by S. G. Pettit, Belmont, Ont., the subject being

**PRIORITY OF LOCATION.**

Mr. Pettit explained its present position, and showed that the idea was gaining ground that one bee-keeper, especially a specialist, should not encroach upon the territory of another; that such would prove a detriment to both. He also claimed, that because a man's bees had gathered nectar from the flowers on certain fields, this did not entitle him to the nectar of coming years. Legislation appeared to be advocated by Mr. Pettit, which would entitle a specialist to a certain territory by the payment of a small tax, which would go, say, towards the payment of municipal expenses.

**Ventilation.**

S. Cornell opened up the discussion upon this subject, claiming that bees required pure air, and not sufficient attention was directed towards ventilation. The repositories should be ventilated, and the hives should be ventilated. He preferred a loose bottom board, in order to allow a rim two to three inches deep, to be placed under the brood chamber in winter. He claimed that if only one entrance were permitted an upright ventilator should be used, not one horizontal, and by means of a dense smoke created in the hive, showed the upward tendency of currents of atmosphere in the hive. A straw hive was also shown, which was claimed to retain the heat better than wood, and yet act as a ventilator to a degree. The smoke was shown passing slowly through the walls of the straw hive. Allen Pringle gave a paper upon "Bee-keeping for Pleasure and Profit." Mr. Pringle claimed that although bee-keeping and the study of bees had much about it that was fascinating and gave pleasure, there were but few who kept them or would keep them aside from the profit to be derived from them. He claimed that more and more was it obvious that bee-keeping should be combined with some other pursuit. The failures of the last two years made that more apparent. The hive to be used and the bee would probably vary under different circumstances. The Carniolan and Italian bees were mentioned as gentle bees, the former especially.

Owing to the attendance of less than twenty-five, the ordinary railway rates only could be secured, which disappointed some of those who came to the meeting.

A paper upon "Bee-keeping: its Relation to Agriculture," will be read at the annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, held at the Ontario Agricultural College, February 7th and 8th.

Farmers' Institutes are in some instances giving bee-keeping its proper place, by putting it on their list of topics, for discussion at their various meetings. This is as it should be, and it would be only just and proper if more would follow the example of those who have so commendably taken the lead in this matter. The specialist is losing ground, when he is unable to supply the necessities for home out of a business for two years. Good seasons which we expect will follow, will not supply his immediate wants, and naturally he looks for something to combine with bee keeping, and which may not prove a failure at the same time, as bee-keeping; in short, to prevent having all his eggs in one basket.