



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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BEETON, ONT., APRIL 6, 1887.

WHOLE No 106

GUELPH CENTRAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE above body met in the council chamber of the City Hall, Guelph, pursuant to notice, on Wednesday March 23rd, 1887, the President, Rev. W. F. Clarke, in the chair.

Mr. A. Gilchrist, Secretary, read the minutes of last meeting which, on motion, were confirmed. Letters of apology for absence were read from Pres. Mills on behalf of himself and the students of the O. A. C. who had been specially invited; also from Profs. Panton, and James, to whom also special invitations had been sent.

Next in the order of business came the

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Fellow Bee-Keepers,—We meet near the close of a winter, which, though a long one, has not been altogether unfavorable for bees, and it is to be hoped that a few days will bring the welcome disclosure that our losses have been but slight. Last season was an unpropitious one in this locality for honey production, and as we are not apt to have two bad years in succession, we may look forward with hopefulness to the coming summer, as one in which nectar will abound, and our industrious little workers gather plentifully both for themselves and us.

At the present time there are several matters of interest and importance pressing on the attention of bee-keepers. One is the low price of their product.

Honey is cheap and likely to remain so. One reason for this is the cheapness of sugar and other saccharine rivals. Another is the fact that the market has been somewhat glutted with honey. Yet a third is the readiness of some bee-keepers to undersell their fellows. Various remedies have been proposed for this condition of things. That which has been most widely discussed is the formation of honey producers associations with a view of regulating the market price of honey. It is more than doubtful if such organizations would accomplish the desired result. No wheat growers association could fix the price of wheat. No cheese or butter association could fix the price of dairy products. The omnipotent law of supply and demand will ultimately control these matters, in spite of all our devices.

But there are several things we can do, if we cannot bull the honey market. We can cheapen production by adopting the best labor-saving devices in our apiaries. We can offer for sale only a first class article and so obtain the highest price going. We can spread information concerning the value of honey as food and medicine. We can set ourselves to develop a local market by exciting a home demand for this article. Above all we can avail ourselves of that British market, which, through the enterprise of our Ontario Government, and the labors of our commissioners, has been proved to be