CANADIAN HONEY EXCHANGE CROP REPORT FOR 1905

The Committee sent out a form to each member of the Ontario Bee-keepers' association, asking the amount of honey produced and the condition of the fruit crop. We regret that only about half the members have reported at this date.

After carefully considering the reports, the Committee find that there has been a fair to good crop of honey in Southern and Western Ontario, and in the Eastern counties there has been a light crop, and from information received the crop in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces has been fair, but owing to heavy losses in bees the bulk of honey will not exceed last year.

We estimate that about 75 pounds per colony has ben secured. We find very little old honey in the hands of bee-keepers or dealers.

Comb honey seems more plentiful than last year, but is not by any means a large crop. Good prices should be realized for it.

The fruit crop is reported generally light, and apples particularly so.

We believe that the price of honey is materially reduced by bee-keepers shipping their product to large centres, such as Toronto and Montreal. Often the home market is left comparatively bare. We would advise that bee-keepers cultivate the home market.

From the above conditions the Committee are of the opinion that the following prices should be obtained by the bee-keepers for their honey:

To retail grocers and dealers:

Extracted white honey, 7½c in 60-lb tins; 8c in 5-lb and 10-lb; 10c retail.

Comb honey, No. 1, $1.75 to $2 per doz.

An allowance of 10 per cent off these prices should be made to wholesale dealers and commission merchants.

H. G. SIBBALD,
W. J. CRAIG,
W. COUSE.
Committee.

Streetsville, August 19, 1905.

THE INFLUENCE OF LARVAL FOOD ON THE PROSPERITY OF THE COLONY.

(Paper by R. Beuhne, Esq., Before the Victorian Bee-keepers' Association, Melbourne, Australia.

At our last annual meeting we had a very valuable address from Dr. Cherry on "The Growth of the Grub." Dr. Cherry demonstrated by scientific reasoning that ill-nourishment of the larvae results in lack of vigor, and impaired vitality in the perfect insect. It is not a question of the quantity of food, but one of quality, a deficiency of nitrogen. As bee-keepers, we know that a deficiency in quantity of larval food is corrected at once by the worker bees in restricting brood rearing, or, should it occur suddenly, by throwing out eggs and even larvae. We hve no proof, however, that bees can discriminate as to the quality of the pollen and even honey, in fact we do know that they sometimes have recourse to substitutes; they occasionally store flour for pollen and fruit juice for honey, both of which decompose in the combs under certain conditions of atmosphere. Assuming, however, that bees will use these substitutes only under stress of circumstances which would be evident even to the bee-keeper, and leaving them therefore out of consideration, the report of the analysis of pollen we have received from Dr. Cherry shows that the percentage of protein—that is, nitrogen—in a digestible form is very variable in different kinds of pollen, ranging from 27 per cent down to 17 per cent. As you all know, larvae under normal conditions are supplied by the nurse bees with all the food they can absorb, and in the case of queen larvae with a surplus, so that deficiency in quality could not be made good by additional food. Taking the best sample of pollen and the worst—that with 27 per cent of protein and that with only 17 per