

nual conventions as there used to be. By benefit we mean the holding of practical and instructive discussions relating to bee culture, brought out by essays and questions.

There are numerous bee-keepers who attend these conventions solely for the purpose of hearing essays read and discussed, and that they may have an opportunity of asking questions and of becoming posted on certain points which may perhaps be puzzling to them. Though it should not be the case, they do not care a particle about the routine business which must be transacted at every annual meeting of an association receiving governmental aid or having other matters to look after beside the mere election of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. This brings us to a subject which we shall merely mention this week viz., would it not be advisable to hold a session of the Ontario Bee-keepers Association some time during the year when the only business shall be the reading of essays, discussions thereon and answering of such questions as may be asked by those who are present. We shall resume this question another week and may perhaps be able to draw forth the opinions of the leading bee-keepers of the association. The mere discussion at any rate will be beneficial."

We merely mention this week that the premium for membership in the O. B. K. A. will be a No. 2 (large) smoker \$1.25. This should be a sufficient notice to all who have not renewed their membership for 1890. For the perusal of those who have not joined at all yet, we will mention the benefits to be derived from membership in next issue, when "La Grippe" has let up his grip on the writer.

#### A Patented Feeder.

**W**E have just received from J. E. Merriman a bee feeder patented Dec. 10, '89. It appears very complicated and great accuracy necessary in its construction besides we do not see that it possesses any advantage over our ordinary feeders and we think could not possibly be constructed at a reasonable price. It had taken me back numbers of the various bee-

journals and posted himself as to what kind of feeders were in the market, we think he would not have patented his device. It shows considerable ingenuity, requiring much skill to construct one. There is no doubt that inventors are frequently too enthusiastic about some pet thing that comes into the brain. We do not think that many of the patent in connection with agriculture ever pay for getting out. It certainly does not possess some of the valuable principles embodied in some of the best feeders now in use that are not patented. The same amount of study of bee literature and, one half the expenditure would doubtless be of much more service. However, it is not for us to dictate; every person has a right to patent whatever he chooses, but we feel sure that it is always best to be thoroughly posted on any subject before jumping at the conclusion that there is nothing equal to what they have gotten up.

#### Ontario Bee-Keepers Association.

**T**HE annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers Association was called to order in the council chamber of the city hall at Belleville on January the 8th at 2.30 p. m. with the President, the Rev. W. F. Clarke in the chair.

There were also present: M. Emigh, Holbrook, vice-president; R. McKnight Owen Sound, treasurer; W. Couse, Streetsville, secretary; Messrs A. Pringle Selby; J. K. Darling, Almonte; F. A. Gemmell, Stratford; D. Anguish, Brantford; F. H. Macpherson, Beeton, Directors; amongst others there were present: F. Branton, Corbyville; C. W. Post, Murray; R. Lowey, Woodrows; W. J. Brown, Chard; A. H. Wallbridge, Belleville; N. Smith, Tilbury Centre; Wm. Peck, Albury; Geo. H. Dean, Tamworth; J. W. Vandervort, Belleville; E. R. Buller, Campbellford; Chas. Hubble, Blessington; Rev. Geo. Brophy, Halloway; A. D. Allan, Tamworth; Lewis Marsh, Halloway, W. G. Russel, Albury.

The minutes of the last annual meeting and of a special general meeting held at Brantford were read and were on motion confirmed.

The directors report was submitted and was on motion adopted.