

From Lewiston Journal.

WESTERN MAINE BEE-KEEPERS

THE two fine days the 1st and 2nd instant, which ushered in another autumn, called together a good number of the members of the Western Maine Bee-keepers' Association at North Paris, at the home of Mr. W. W. Dunham, president of the Association.

After getting into working order, several important and timely questions were discussed.

GETTING READY FOR WINTER.

The first topic introduced was "When should we prepare bees for winter?" This called out a lively discussion.

Some would not prepare them for winter till after the frosts or the honey flow ceases. Others would prepare them after the surplus honey flow.

Mr. Fuller, of Oxford, would prepare early so as not to encourage late brood rearing.

Mr. Pearson, of Locke's Mills, had adopted no rule. He had fed late and suffered no inconvenience in breeding.

Mr. J. F. Moore had more or less trouble in that way.

Mr. Welcome, of Poland, commenced to contract the brood nest the first of August to the wintering capacity. Had extracted after frosts had closed the honey flow.

Mr. Wm. Mason, of Mechanic Falls, would not contract the brood nest as it discouraged breeding, as the bees needed more room for fall honey flow.

Mr. Durham, of North Paris, President of the Association, received a large flow from golden rod and not always from buckwheat.

Mr. Welcome had room enough on six or eight frames to encourage the requisite amount of brood with room for fall honey.

Mr. Crawford, of Massachusetts, thought that different localities produced unlike results. His bees were in two stories; could not contract them to eight frames.

James B. Mason, of Mechanic Falls, could get his bees on seven or eight frames and give room for surplus, and could get more brood from that number.

It was finally resolved that at the close of the honey harvest was the time to prepare bees for winter.

ITALIAN BEES AGAINST THE BLACKS.

Col. Wm. Swett, of South Paris, inquired if the Italian bees were really any better than the blacks. He preferred the blacks as they had proved more hardy and pleasant to handle.

Mr. Mason had observed no material difference in that direction, giving many points of excellence of the Italians over the Blacks.

The discussion seemed to show that the Italian bee was the best for all purposes.

WINTER FOOD.

Which is best for winter food, sugar syrup or honey? It was decided that sugar was preferable.

How shall we prevent increase of swarms? Mr. Dunham let each hive swarm once, and after four days cut out all queen cells. Mr. Moore had had three colonies swarm themselves queenless. Others had the same experience.

At the evening session J. B. Mason read an essay, subject,

BEES AT FAIRS.

Mr. Mason urged the Association to take their bees and hives to the South Fair. Mr. Wellcome thought it was for the advancement of the business to show their interest to the public, who should be awakened to the importance of bee-keeping, as bee-keeping alone has been sadly neglected in the way of exhibiting and advertising at fairs. Mr. Fuller said the subject was timely and important, and favored forwarding the movement. Mr. Moore, of Hyde Park, Mass., said he was a Maine man and felt very much at home and interested in the above subject. He urged them to "brace up" and present some enthusiasm and interest and thus advertise the business. Mr. Dunham read the premium list in which nearly \$100 were offered as premiums. Very much more was promised for next year provided that bee-keepers would turn out en masse. Several members proposed to make some exhibit of either bees or supplies, or both, together with honey.

OTHER QUESTIONS.

How many bees should a colony have to winter best? Mr. Crawford thought no inconvenience was realized in having too many bees. Mr. Wellcome's weakest colonies had often wintered better than the stronger. Mr. Mason had