

Annual Meeting

Ontario

Bee-Keepers' Association

HELD AT BRANTFORD, ONT.....

Mr. Holtermann—Part of the work of the Experimental apiary this summer endorsed very largely just exactly what Mr. Taylor has said. That the amount which is lost is much larger than is generally supposed.

Mr. Frith—You would judge then it would not be very profitable to feed syrup for comb honey.

Mr. Holtermann—I would be inclined to think so.

Mr. McEvoy—If the brood chamber were full of brood, and you put on section pretty well drawn out and put a frame on top of that with syrup, at a time when they would carry it down 10 or 12 pounds at a night, I do not know but what they could make sugar go and go to pay.

Mr. Pringle—I think it is inconsistent not to say wrong, for any man in this Association who condemns the construction of sugar honey to instruct the people how to do it.

Mr. Frith—The paper will show to the people that they need not run away with the idea that we are adulterating comb honey, because it would not pay.

Moved by Mr. Pigot, seconded by Mr. Frith, that the best thanks of this Association be tendered Mr. Taylor for his paper. Carried.

Mr. Darling—There was one sentiment in that paper which I thought was rich, and that is, "what is the use of wasting our time on these experiments that are doing us no good, and not doing something practical."

Mr. F. A. Gemmell, Stratford—I had an experiment last winter. I had an article in the Canadian Bee Journal with regard to it; I would like to have it discussed. I had some five colonies last winter that had no ventilation on top, and they were the best colonies I had in the yard last spring. You will understand that the colonies and hives were never allowed to be completely covered with snow at any time.

Mr. Pettit—Mr. Gemmell is right, but I want to emphasize this point, that it depends upon having plenty of bottom venti-

lation, if you fail in that, you fail entirely, the whole thing is up. Last year I experimented with seven different doors. In the first place there is a vertical entrance, you can keep a vertical entrance open very much better than you can a horizontal entrance, and that vertical entrance is made in a box that sets under a hive, not in the hive. These boxes were three inches deep and there was two vertical entrances the whole depth of that front, pretty well towards the corner of the hive; each of them three inches from the centre and the vertical entrance were $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, that would be quite sufficient if these would stay open, but less they might get partly choked, the boxes had around the sides other holes for ventilation 2 inches by $\frac{3}{4}$. One in the south, and one in the east and west. Now you will see taking these together it makes a lot of ventilation, and that was a great success. It is a great factor in wintering out door hives, to let the bees have plenty of air from the bottom, and then they do not want any above. I say they are better without it. These openings around the hive were covered with straw six inches deep, held there by binder twine, wound around the hive. That keeps the snow away, and insures them being open all winter. The bees come through in fine shape. They were not completely covered with snow. The top of the hive had about six inches of packing on it. This straw that I spoke of being around the sides came up to the top of the hive, and came out about six inches above, and then there were cushions on some of them, and then chaff. There was six inches of packing on top.

A Member—What did you have between the packing and the bees?

Mr. Pettit—A cloth and no board.

Mr. McEvoy—I went over Mr. Gemmell's paper in THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I read it over and over. Now the entrance that he gave, the full width of the hive with such an entrance it would be dangerous to give upward ventilation, because it is actually giving too much ventilation at