

were discussed it was resolved that this Association think it best to have the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association handle our honey, providing we know about what we will realise per lb. for it prior to shipment.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that we adjourn to meet in the Town of Petrolia, on Sept. 1st, 1887.

J. R. KITCHIN.

Alvinston, April 18th, 1887.

#### North Middlesex Bee-keepers' Association.

(Continued from last week.)

I am glad of modern improvements in bee management for I never could bring myself into sympathy with the barbarous practices of bee destruction every fall for their stores, although you may lose many bees in Ontario on account of the severity of the season, yet I am sure none of you adopt the cruel practice of killing the bees for their honey. Believe me, gentlemen, that I am in fullest sympathy with you in your arduous work of thus reclaiming so much value that must otherwise be lost. It is the harnessing of the winged lightning, and the receiving for our use the richest bounties of nature. I am glad that the days are dawning and are already here when human intelligence and mind force are contributing to control the great forces of nature in her secret workings for the greatest advantages of our race. Let us rejoice in the success we have attained, and still be striving after greater in the little we can do.

On motion of Messrs. Coleman, of Devizes, and Charlton, of Ailsa Craig, it was resolved:—"That whereas this Association realizes the grave importance of securing a foreign market for our surplus honey, it learns with deep regret that the directors of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association are not taking more vigorous steps to follow up the ground gained by an exhibition at the Colonial; this Association would therefore express its desire that the President of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association should take a shipment of Ontario honey to dispose of in England, or in case he find it impossible to go, some other competent bee-keeper is appointed. That the Association would co-operate and do its best to make a success of the undertaking; and consider that the \$500

grant to the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association be used to defray expenses in shipment, and that the balance of expenses be met by a tax upon shippers in proportion to the quantity shipped by each, and that—be elected a delegate to interview the President, or if a directors meeting be held, to present the views of this Association.

The following paper, by Mr. Henry Phippen, Parkhill, was then read:

#### BEST METHOD OF STRENGTHENING A COLONY FOR EARLY HONEY FLOW.

When the apiarist takes his bees out of their winter quarters, he should see that they have a queen and plenty of honey, and he should take away all the frames that the bees cannot cover nicely and make the brood chamber smaller by putting in a close fitting division board. The hive should be tightly closed above and the entrance made small so as to retain as much heat as possible. Enlarge the brood chamber by shifting the division board and adding small frames as rapidly as the strength of the colony will admit. I do not believe in beginning feeding too early in the spring, as all my attempts to stimulate too early breeding has resulted in failure, as there is no advantage in rearing one bee and losing two, which you are very apt to do if you begin too soon. The bees should not be stimulated to begin breeding until it can be continued without interruption. As a rule, commence about the first of May by giving half a pound of honey, or even less, to each colony every evening, and continue doing so until there is plenty of honey in the fields for them to gather.

In reply to a question, Mr. Phippen said that in this part we don't begin much before March 1st, which he thought to be early enough. Mr. Aches said in some localities soft maple supplied all the honey that is necessary as early as the 10th of April. A brief inspection about the 1st of April of the condition of bees would indicate to him whether feeding was necessary or not. It is injurious to bees to feed them if they do not need it.

Mr. B. Gott asked what is the object of feeding bees? to save life, or money, or to stimulate the bees? There are times when it would be injurious to feed at all.