

who in a distant country are occupied in the same pursuit as themselves, was one that would commend itself to all imbued with fraternal feelings. But while this was the principal cause that introduced so many to gather together, other thoughts must have flashed across their minds when they contemplated the great number that were present at the luncheon at midday and at the conversazione in the evening.

It seems but a short time ago that bee-keeping was an industry struggling for a bare existence, scarcely known or recognised, disregarded by most people, practised by few; but prescient minds conceived the idea that this industry, so weak and so obscure, might be fostered and become a boon to many cottagers and labourers; and fraught with this view they brushed aside the indifference of those around, and by dint of perseverance, energy, and tact—never losing hope, ever marching on, they at length attained their sought-for end. Some that have not reaped,—some have fallen by the way; but still many in our midst that in the past took an active part in the movement can look backwards with joy and thankfulness on the results of their laborious, and with hopefulness can contemplate the future that still lies before them. The sight of so many bee-keepers thus brought together,—representatives of the respective places in which the lot of each is cast,—will cause them 'to renew their strength,' and with more determined resolve proceed on their onward way, and to strive to overtake their still unfinished work.

The day of the Conference at South Kensington will be one that will ever be remembered by those present on the occasion. The arrangements were most satisfactory. The feelings that predominated in the breasts of British bee-keepers toward their Canadian brethren were hearty and sincere, and those feelings found a ready response in the hearts of those whom on this day they delighted to honour. Though embarked in the same pursuit, there will be, we are assured, no undue rivalry, but both, Canadians and British, will combine with all their strength to extend and increase the industry which they have so much at heart; and we may argue, from the spirit that pervaded the meeting, that these endeavours will not be without their full realisation."

A report of the banquet is as follows:

"On Wednesday, October 6th., a quarterly conference of the members of the British Bee-keepers' Association was held at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Mr. Cowan, Chairman of the Council, presided, amongst those present

being a large number of prominent representatives of the branch associations.

Mr. W. H. Ellis, President of the Devonshire Association, brought forward the question of introducing a better honey-producing bee than the Ligurian bee, and said that Mr. Woodbury, who had introduced that bee into this country, had attempted also to introduce the Indian bee (*Apis dorsata*), believing that it was a better bee than the Ligurian, and that, as it was much larger, it would exterminate all the other bees (laughter). Following upon the footsteps of that gentleman, he had done all in his power to carry out the views of that gentleman. He had been promised by Mr. Douglas, who had come to England from India for the purpose of taking back Ligurian bees, that specimens of the *Dorsata* should be sent over, but he had heard nothing more about it. He suggested that the question should be referred to a small committee for consideration.

Mr. D. Stewart stated that a number of experiments were being made in Canada with a view of improving the indigenous bees. They did not, however, want to exterminate any species, but only to improve them, and by judicious crossing to obtain a better honey-producing bee, one which would be able to tap the red clover.

The chairman said the subject which Mr. Ellis had raised was a very interesting one, and one which might be very properly discussed this evening when the Canadian bee-keepers would be present and report upon their experiments. He had lately seen Mr. Douglas, who had told him that there were no bees in India which were worth anything at all, and that the *apis dorsata* was worthless as a honey bee. Whether they were useful for crossing remained to be proved. Mr. Douglas was importing Ligurian bees, as he considered they were superior to anything they had in India. The subject then dropped.

A question of considerable interest to County Associations, namely, the grouping the different county centres for third-class examination purposes was discussed, and a resolution duly passed recommending the same for the consideration of the Examining Board.

The members of the British Bee-keepers' Association afterwards met in the Quadrant, where an excellent luncheon served by Spiers and Pond was given in honour of the Colonial visitors, at which upwards of 100 ladies and gentlemen sat down, amongst whom were Mr. T. W. Cowan, the Hon. and Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bligh, the Rev. G. Raynor, the Rev. F. G. Jenyns, the Rev. J. Lawson Sission, the