

# Annual ... Meetings.

## York Bee-Kespers Association.

The fifth annual meeting of the York Bee-keepers' Association was held in the Council Chambers, Stouffville, Oct. 13th, 1899.

The meeting opened at 11 a. m. with the president, Mr. D. W. Heise, in the chair. Others present were as follows: Vice-president, J. F. Davison, Unionville; secretary, L. Mapes, Headford; W. McDonald, Unionville; A. H. Crosby, Markham; J. L. Byer, Markham; W. Br. Button, Ringwood; John Timbers, Scarboro Junction; J. McGillivray, Oak Ridges; W. S. Walton, Ballantrae; Samuel Hall, Pine Orchard; J. T. Dougall, Stouffville; F. Whiteside, Little Britton; A. J. Sheffer, Gormley; W. Stouffer, Ringwood; H. F. Meyer, Cashell; M. J. Vernon, New Market, and others. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which on motion were adopted. The treasurer's annual report showed a balance of \$25.00 on hand which was considered highly satisfactory. The election of officers for the ensuing year followed, which resulted in the old officers all being re-elected. The rest of the time was devoted to the discussion of questions.

**FIRST QUESTION**—Is it advisable to rob a strong colony at any time for the purpose of building up a weak one? Mr. Byer thought it not advisable, only in case one had a valuable queen whose colony had become so much reduced that her life was in danger, when he would draw from, (not rob,) a strong colony to strengthen the weak one.

Mr. Davison considered it unprofitable, unless the bee keeper had only a few colonies all told, and some were weak, it might pay him to equalize them by exchanging combs, or where he desired increase in numbers rather than honey.

Mr. Walton thought a weak colony could be encouraged by exchanging stands with a powerful one, without decreasing the working force of the strong one to such an extent that it would be much noticed when the main honey flow opens.

The President's first answer to the question was "no," but admitted that circumstances would arise under which

it might be profitable to tinker with weak colonies, he was of the opinion that the queen was a good deal at fault, for a colony being so. He advised, rather than rob a strong colony, to contract the weak colonies to accommodate their size and let them pull along with their own strength, putting supers filled with brood combs on the powerful colonies, and allow the queen to occupy them if she choose to do so. Then when the main honey flow approaches, the combs containing principally hatching brood can be given to the weak colonies, by which they will be able to build up into strong colonies for winter, and by this means the working force of the strong colony is not impaired for the harvest. A number of other members took part in the discussion, and they generally agreed that under ordinary circumstance it would be unwise to rob a strong colony to assist a weak one.

**SECOND QUESTION**—Is it advisable to reduce a strong colony to go into winter quarters, by destroying the older bees?

The secretary said he considered it advisable, although he had not practised it, yet he believed the old bees were very often a menace to the colony during winter.

Mr. Whiteside considered many old bees in a colony prepared for winter, as being simply consumers up to the time when they could be of most use by contributing of their heat, when lo they die, and often obstruct ventilation. He thought it would be as well to be rid of them, if anyone knew how to make the separation.

Mr. Byer and Mr. Crosby would not destroy the old bees, they thought even though they died before the spring time, yet they were a benefit to the colony while they lived.

Mr. Walton, Mr. Davison, and others thought it might be advisable in some cases so get rid of the old bees, but they questioned the Alpaugh method of accomplishing the object. As by moving the hive one was just as liable to get young bees as old ones in the decay hive.

Mr. Dougall explained that where the brood-chamber is packed full of brood at the time of the harvest, by moving the hive at the time and putting a decoy in its place, if the bee-keeper could retain only the bees which had never been afield, along with those that will hatch within the next 20 days, he would still have a raising colony for winter, and being all young bees, consequently that colony is in a better condition for wintering than