

THE LAMBTON BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

MEEETING of the Lambton Bee-keepers' Association was held in the town of Petrollea on Thursday, Sept. 1st. On account of the President not being able to attend, the chair was occupied by the Vice-President, Dr. A. E. Harvey, of Wyoming.

The minutes and discussions of last meeting were read and adopted; the roll of officers and members was then called and fifteen new names were added to the list of membership. An interesting day was spent in discussing the various questions as advanced. The election of officers resulted as follows: Dr. A. E. Harvey, President; Lewis Traver, Vice-President and J. R. Kitchin, Secretary-Treasurer. A vote of thanks was extended to the retiring officers.

The Sec.-Treas.'s. report was read, showing a balance on hand, and the association in good running order. This closed the business of the forenoon session.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

No speeches were given, nor essays read, so they proceeded with the question-box. The first question asked, was, "Is the Alley drone trap or any other such fixture on the front of a hive a detriment to the worker bees?" Mr. Boyd said that he had used the Alley drone trap but not enough to thoroughly test it but thought it was a detriment to the bees. Mr. Forbes said his experience with them was that they could not get out and in the hive so well with them on. Dr. Harvey said that he had had considerable experience with them and found them a detriment to the bees but were good if a person wanted to kill off all black drones.

Second. What time is it advisable to unite weak colonies in the fall of the year, and what is the best method of so doing? Mr. Travers made one queenless and then set one hive on top of the other, but smoked them all well first. He said by so doing the ones above would not likely come down for a day or two and by that time they would be acquainted with the ones below and would also forget their old home. He always doubled up when frost came.

Dr. Harvey thought it best to double up early in the fall when the flow was good, then they would be more apt to gather enough honey to winter on, for one strong colony was better than two weak ones.

Mr. Kitchin said that after the frost came he placed a couple of empty frames in the centre of a hive, made one colony queenless and put one in each end of the hive, they would then gradually get acquainted.

Third. What is the best plan of handling

bees to prevent robbing when honey is scarce? Mr. Travers said that about the best time to handle bees was from about four o'clock to seven in the evening. He thought best to smoke as little as possible, for when smoked they would fill themselves with honey and would be less liable to defend themselves. A number of the members said that if any extracting was to be done, the best way was to use a tent and be careful to not drop or daub any honey where the bees would get at it and there would be no danger of robbing. This then led to a discussion concerning the queen-excluding board.

Dr. Harvey thought it no advantage to keep the queen from going into the top storey.

Mr. Travers could not agree with him. He said he would rather have honey than brood in the top storey.

Fourth. What is the best method of wintering on summer stands?

Mr. Granger packed his in clamp, set them about four inches apart, placed them on planks and raised them from the ground, had four inches chaff behind them and six inches in front of them, left the honey board on and liked to have it propolised down tight with a space between it and the frames so as to allow the bees to pass backwards and forwards.

Dr. Harvey packed in boxes with oat hulls around the hives, fed on granulated sugar syrup with about one drachm of tartaric acid to ten pounds of sugar.

Mr. Boyd used the Richardson hive with success but did not like too much packing above the cluster, thought three inches was plenty, said his experience was that a sawdust hive with one inch packing was as good as one with three inches.

Fifth. What kind of a feeder is best for fall feeding?

Mr. Morrison and Kitchen liked the Canadian bee-feeder. Dr. Harvey used a bread pan with cheese cloth over it close to the honey and set it over the frames and in the morning the honey would be gone.

6th. When do bees rear drones in worker cells, the colony having a good queen?

Mr. Grangle said that necessity compelled them to. Mr. Kitchin said that the colony had likely been given full sheets of worker foundation and that they had no drone cells in the hive, nor any room for hatching them.

Seventh. When a colony gets too many drones what is the best way to get rid of them?

Mr. Kitchin never interfered with the drones in a good Italian colony, but clipped the heads off all the drones before they were hatched in a hybrid or black colony. Dr. Harvey said to cut