

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The afternoon was spent in the election of officers, and in the routine business of the Association. The following are the officers for 1888 :

M. Emigh, Holbrook, President.

J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Vice-President.

## DISTRICT.

## DIRECTORS :

No. 1.—No representative.

No. 2.—J. K. Darling, Almonte.

No. 3.—No representative.

No. 4.—Allen Pringle, Selby.

No. 5.—No representative.

No. 6.—Wm. Couse, Streetsville.

No. 7.—A. Pickett, Nassagawaya.

No. 8.—Will. Ellis, St. Davids.

No. 9.—F. Malcolm, Innerkip.

No. 10.—R. McKnight, Owen Sound.

No. 11.—F.A. Gemmel, Stratford.

No. 12.—R.E. Smith, Tilbury Centre.

No. 13.—E. Schultz, Kilworthy.

## AUDITORS :

F. H. Macpherson, Beeton.

R. F. Holterman, Brantford.

Votes of thanks were moved to the Mayor and corporation of the town of Woodstock, to the Oxford Bee-keepers' Association, and to the officers of the past year.

The next meeting of the Association will commence on the second Tuesday of January, 1889, and will be held at Owen Sound.

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

Moved by F. H. Macpherson seconded by J. B. Hall, and resolved that Thos. W. Cowan, editor of the *British Bee Journal*, and Ivar S. Young, editor of the *Norwegian Bee Journal*, be honorary members of the Association, and that the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the gentlemen named. Carried unanimously.

Mr. McKnight's paper was then read, on

## OUR LOCAL HONEY MARKET AND HOW TO CULTIVATE IT.

Until the production of honey in Canada becomes much greater than it is likely to be, the best market will be the home market. I have no sympathy with the class of bee-keepers who constantly lament over low prices and low sales, who strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of the proverbially green fields that are far away, the verdancy of which pales as they are approached. The demand for

honey and the prices paid for it are relatively as good here as elsewhere. I believe this country needs and will take all the honey its bee-keepers can supply. The experience of the past warrants this conclusion. What was the production of honey in this Province ten or twelve years ago as compared with its production now? And what its consumption then, as compared with its consumption to-day? Was there not a ton of honey put upon the market this year—poor though it was—for every one hundred pounds offered twelve years ago? Then the man who had honey to sell carried it to the drug shop. Now the provision dealers are his best customers. Then honey was used as medicine or partaken of as a luxury—now it is frequently found upon the breakfast table, and esteemed a wholesome, economical article of diet. What are the conclusions to be drawn from these facts? Obviously that the demand is keeping pace with the supply. That honey is no longer associated with drugs, or enjoyed only by the wealthy, but is steadily working its way into the homes of the people and onto the tables of the poor who are beginning to recognize the fact that its food value is worth what it costs them. It is true the price of honey now is much less than it was a decade ago, but it is also true that bee-keepers' requisites are better and cost less now than they did then, while the demand for what they produce is steadier and more extensive. To my thinking honey is now selling for all it is worth as an article of food, and he who looks for higher prices either here or elsewhere is doomed to be disappointed. The wholesale price of extracted honey in the Canadian market has ranged from seven to ten cents per lb. for some years past and I know of no market in which our bee-keepers can nett better prices. I see nothing to prevent these prices being maintained if bee-keepers only show themselves equal to the requirements of the business they have embarked in. The general law that regulates the price of industrial and food products is "a living profit on the labor and capital employed in their production"—the supply and demand being well balanced. It cannot be denied that the demand for honey in Canada has kept pace with the supply, neither can it be disputed that present prices give a fair profit on the labor and capital employed in its production. The wisdom and the duty of cultivating the home market is therefore obvious. It is true we have good reasons for anticipating a steady increase in production as time rolls on but we have just as good reasons to look forward to a corresponding increase in consumption and a like increase in the demand; but these will not follow without an effort on the part of both the