

And gaze with yearning eyes beyond—
On fields that shine supremely fair."

THOMAS G. NEWMAN.

OXFORD BEE-KEEPERS.

The annual meeting of the Oxford Bee-keepers' Association commenced on Friday, Dec. 18, President Emigh in the chair.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were presented and on motion adopted.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year :—Dr. Duncan, Embro, president ; Francis Malcolm, and J. E. Frith, 1st and 2nd vice-presidents ; Wm. Goodger, Jas. R. Tennant, J. B. Hall, Richard Martin and Martin Emigh, Executive Committee ; M. S. Schell, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Duncan on taking the chair addressed the meeting on various topics relating to apiculture, referring to some of the benefits to be derived by bee-keepers meeting in convention.

It was moved by Mr. F. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. J. E. Frith, and resolved, that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Emigh, for his services during the past year as president, which was gracefully acknowledged.

After some discussion the following were appointed a committee to answer the questions placed on the table before being discussed by the convention, namely :—Hall, Emigh, Goodger and Malcolm.

The first question taken up by the convention was :—What is the cause of the low prices, the honey crop being equal to a 75 per cent. failure ? asked by J. E. Frith.

Answer by committee—Hard times, low prices of other sweets, putting honey on the market too early in competition with small fruits, and taking honey too green.

An interesting discussion took place relating to the question, much stress being put on the question of allowing the bees to fully ripen the honey before taking it from them, as the honey would have a much finer flavor and greater consistency, and be more satisfactory both to consumer and producer.

Question II asked by J. E. Frith—What means can or could be adopted to counteract the downward tendency in the price of honey ?

Answer by committee—Find a foreign market.

Mr. Hall said he was glad the question had been asked, as he thought an opportunity was offered the bee-keepers of Canada such as he never expected would be presented again in his lifetime at least, viz., that of making an exhibit at the Colonial exhibition to be held in England next year. He had learned from prominent American apiculturists who were in attendance at the National bee-keepers convention, held in Toronto in Sept. 1884, when the Industrial Exhibition was being held, at which a large exhibit of honey was made, that Canadian honey was equal to, if not superior to any in the world.

A lengthy and spirited discussion ensued, which was taken part in by Messrs Frith, Schell, Malcolm and Emigh who were unanimous in urging the importance of taking such steps as may be deemed necessary to insure an exhibit such as would be a credit not only to the bee-keepers, but to the Province at large.

It was moved by J. E. Frith, and seconded by Mr. Malcolm, that Messrs. Emigh, Hall, and Schell be a committee to make such arrangements as may be necessary, to insure, if possible, an exhibit of honey at the approaching Colonial Exhibition.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Shannon, that Messrs. Emigh, Schell and Malcolm comprise the committee.

The motion on being put, the amendment was declared carried.

Question III—What is the best method of preventing dampness inside the hives in winter ; whether in cellar or in chaff hives on summer stands ? asked by Dr. Duncan.

Answered by committee—High temperature, and large lower ventilation.

Mr. Hall spoke to the question, strongly urging the necessity of high temperature to keep the bees both warm and dry, while if there is plenty of lower ventilation the dampness will be driven out by the heat from the cluster of bees.

Mr. Firth said ventilation had been discussed so much that it was almost threadbare, still there was always something to be learned. He spoke on the scientific aspect of the question, showing that when a high temperature is