

the specific name—*cornuti*.

The pollen masses are in five distinct pairs suspended from the apex-follicles or pods vectricose; seeds-comose, (furnished with silk-like fibres) flat and margined. Every part of the plant is full of a thick, viscid milky juice, having properties very similar to india-rubber, for which, indeed, very sanguine people have proposed to substitute it. It has also been proposed to use the silky fibres attached to the seeds, as a substitute for cotton.

Experiments, on a considerable scale, have been made to test the commercial value of this plant in both respects, but the results have not been such as to depreciate the market value of either rubber shoes or cotton stockings.

There are several species of this genus widely diffused throughout Ontario, all of which furnish abundance of honey.

Occasionally the pollen-masses adhere to the legs of bees, and other insects, holding them fast prisoners till released by death; generally, however, as Sampson circumvented the Philistines by carrying off the gates of Gaza, so does the bee release itself by carrying off a pair of pollen-masses, many of which may be seen at the entrance of the hive during the months of June and July. Yours etc.

C. MACPHERSON.

Prescott, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1886.

#### MIDDLESEX BEE-KEEPERS.

##### AN IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING SESSION.

The North Middlesex Bee-keepers' Association met in the Town Hall here at half past two this afternoon, the president, Mr. F. Atkinson, in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and on motion adopted.

The treasurer's report was then read, and showed a balance on hand of \$5.65.

Moved by the president, seconded by Wm. O'Neil, that the report be accepted.

The secretary here read a number of letters from different persons, expressing their regret at not being present.

The president then opened the business with the following speech:

MR. SECRETARY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.—It gives me much pleasure to be present at this large meeting of the North Middlesex Beekeepers' Association. I must say that we have passed a crisis in the history of bee-keeping which must be met by those of us who are interested in the pursuit. We must meet it in a broad, honest

and unselfish way. Every well-informed bee-keeper is reminded that the time for large profits to be expected from our products has passed away. Each year the price of honey has been reduced, until at the present time we find ourselves without a paying market for last year's half crop, and of the great loss of bees during the winter and spring of 1886 staring us in the face. We must not lose sight of the lesson we have learned. We must be careful and not put too bright a side on bee culture, and be prepared for future results. Let our products put their brightest side outwards by their quality and flavor. Our calling is an honorable one in the agricultural branch. The honey bee is indispensable for fertilization. Honey is a wholesome and desirable article of food, and is furnished at our doors, and if we fail to preserve it our calling is neglected and the purest of sweets is lost. With all these points in view we must use economy we have been extravagant in many of our expenditures. These we must endeavor to reduce to correspond as much as possible with the price of honey for as compared with other sweets and syrups of the market of to-day, honey is below its real value. It is evident we need much practical scientific manipulating to gain knowledge in apiculture. We have new fields to investigate, we have to change our methods of handling and managing our bees, and those who are the most successful with bees practice the most rigid economy in all its branches, and have their honey put on the market in its purest and cleanest state, with labels, and with their name and post office address on every package. I have a few more remarks to make at a future stage of the meeting. Thanking you, ladies and gentlemen, for the hearing I have received, and hoping that all members will take part in the discussions of this meeting, the Secretary will now call the roll of officers, directors and members of this association.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of Atkinson, of Ailsa Craig, as president; D. P. Campbell, of Parkhill, Vice President; A. W. Humphries, Secretary-Treasurer.

The newly elected officers thanked the members of the association for the confidence placed in them, as shown by their re-election. The President then