

the exhibit at an advance over the American make. Adulteration should be strictly guarded against, and the taking and handling should be carefully done. Honey should be allowed to ripen thoroughly (in the hives, if practicable), and it should never be put on the market unripe, untidy or unclean. He strongly condemned as injurious to the business the slovenly methods pursued by some. Ontario has a diminishingly few of such and increasingly large number of first-class apiarists. As to the prospects, he said that beekeepers would continue to grow. This growth will not be in the direction of specialism, but in conjunction with farming, etc. Beekeeping, as an exclusive business, will not pay, except in the hands of a master favorably situated as to forage. As to partial failure of the honey-flow last season, he said that in the whole of Ontario there was not more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of a crop, and in many states of the Union much less. A leading Nova Scotia beekeeper wrote him to the effect that the clover had produced no honey there. The failure he attributed to winter-killing of clover and the drought affecting other honey producing plants. As to the much discussed question of whether it paid to sow for honey, he gave it as his opinion that it paid to sow three honey producers viz.: Alsike clover, buckwheat and basswood. This opinion he founded on personal experiment. He has now growing nearly 800 basswood trees and expects to see them bloom. In conclusion, he advised every beekeeper to plant basswood which would not only produce honey but would assist in preventing the recurrence of droughts, which are largely owing to the country being denuded of trees.

Mr. F. P. Clare is evidently an experienced beekeeper and close observer, and he condenses much practical information in the following papers which he contributed to the convention.

QUEENS.

I do not think we need to trouble ourselves much about them; not but what much depends upon a good queen, but because the bees know when and how to rear the best of queens. This is always done (if bees are in a normal condition) when honey is coming regularly and the hives are filled with young bees. I have never had better queens than those raised the swarming impulse, and with this end in view. I think it well to help those colonies that we desire to breed from by giving them sealed brood from the others. The selected ones will then swarm first and we will have young queens or cells for the others. All this means work and bother, and then how often do we find some hybrid stock better honey-

gatherers than our gentle Italians.

In my experience, a queen's first year is the best; not but what she may be as prolific the second, but she (perhaps it is the bees who desire a young queen) is much more apt to lead off a swarm, and this in out yards, without a watcher, don't pay.

Years ago I endeavored to know the condition and age of every queen in my yard, and when they were two years old I destroyed them, giving cells or young queens (if I had them to spare), or, if the strain pleased me, let them earn one for themselves. But I do not pay as much attention to this matter now, for I find the bees understand this part of their business and generally will attend to superseding old queens. 'Tis well, however, to have a few young ones to spare in the fall, and should an old queen be discovered, replace her with a young one.

I have said nothing about introducing queens, as I suppose each bee-keeper has his own way of it, and if successful this is the best way for him. A provisioned cage, which allows the bees to release the queen pleases me best, and feeding (if honey is not coming in) for three or four evenings makes it generally a success.

COMB FOUNDATION.

I suppose, Mr. President, by inviting me to write on "Comb Foundation," you desire the result of my experience in the use of the article. I use but little of it and never used more than starters in brood frames. For this purpose I think beekeepers could afford to pay many times its present cost. Not but what bees will build comb without it, but too often not where we want it.

The reason assigned for using full sheets of foundation in brood nest is to prevent the building of drone comb; but with me this end can generally be secured by contraction. First of all, let us enquire, why do bees build drone comb? Nature teaches a new swarm to build worker comb, that young bees may be reared to take the place of those that are worn out. By the time a few cells are built, the queen is ready to occupy them, and when the swarm is moderate in size and the queen prolific this condition of things continues till the hive is nearly filled with comb. A waiting queen directs the energies of the comb builders. But let the swarm be a heavy one and the queen failing, especially if honey is coming in freely and the queen will soon be distanced by the comb builders, who change off drone comb for storage purposes.

My plan, when working for comb honey, is to have new swarms on five Langstroth frames containing starters of foundation, and after these are filled with comb, and the