



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

VOL. III. No. 43

BEETON, ONT JAN. 18, 1888.

WHOLE No. 147

EDITORIAL.

Ontario Bee-keepers' Association.

THE regular annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was held in Woodstock on the 10th and 11th insts. There were in attendance about forty bee-keepers, the majority of them being local men. In the morning before the first session of the Ontario Association the Oxford bee-keepers met and appointed their officers, a report of which will be found in another column.

About 1.30 p.m. the President called the meeting to order and the first business transacted was the renewing of the membership for the ensuing year. Without stopping to have the minutes of the last annual meeting read, the President at once called Mr. F. Malcolm, Innerkip, for his paper on :

BEST METHOD OF PRODUCING EXTRACTED HONEY.

Next to the movable frame no invention has done so much to increase the production of honey as the extractor. When it was found that combs could be lifted from the hive, emptied of their contents, replaced and refilled, a stimulus was given to bee-keeping that the most enthusiastic never dreamed of. But much of this enthusiasm was based on theory. How simple it looked. Bees are easily wintered, honey is easily gathered, and if we can empty the combs just when we please what is to hinder anyone making money keeping bees? But hundreds, and I may say thousands, have found theory and prac-

tice two very different things when applied to bee-keeping.

Still bee-keeping has a future and men and women will succeed in gathering the sweets of nature in large quantities to the benefit of themselves and the good of the public, and from anything we can see at present honey in the extracted form will take the lead, as regards quantity by large proportions. It is, therefore, important that the producer should understand the best means of securing his crop in the highest degree of perfection. As far as quantity is concerned I am at a loss to know what to advise, so much depends on condition, especially as regards the strength of colonies, favorable weather and the amount of nectar. Many of the most experienced apiarists fail in regard to the first, and the two last are beyond human control. But with all those conditions favorable we do claim to know something. In fact, I have said in conversation and through the press that if there was any one thing I knew, if there was any one thing that I could cordially recommend, if there was one item of advice I could give with pleasure it was: *Don't extract honey till it is ripe.* And yet, strange as it may seem, there are men who know much more about bees than I do, who say this is not necessary, that honey can be ripened after it is extracted. I cannot account for this except on the principle that some men lack the ability to judge both flavor and texture. It is an admitted fact that some men are color blind, but that is no proof that there are not a great variety of colors. So it is in judging the quality of honey. Everyone must know for himself. Believing this to be a matter of great importance, and wishing to impress it upon the convention, I would say that bees do not gather