

gathering of that choicest of nature's sweets which poets have chosen, to represent the nectar of the Gods.

And the fact that it comes to us direct from the same hand that has so gorgeously decked the lilies of the field, should prompt us to study well the means that supreme wisdom has given us to gather and appreciate so great a bounty. It seems to me a wanton disregard of opportunities for one who lives among the flowers of the country, to allow this nectar to waste its sweetness ungathered. And more than this, the study of the bee, its ways and habits brings to us such forcible examples of industry, wisdom, and political economy, that it would be strange indeed to find one whose attention is directed to this ennobling pursuit ever to disgrace either himself or society.

But mere sentimental bee-keeping is like faith without works, it leads one to bankruptcy. We must not forget that it is by industry we thrive. We are too apt to indulge in the ideal and neglect the practical. The important question for us to consider is, how to make bee-keeping pay, for it cannot be denied that only a few have acquired any considerable portion in this direction. But is not this the case with all other occupations, it is only the few that rise to success, the great majority trudge along securing only a bare livelihood, and the old saying is as true for us as for others, it is the man that makes the business, not the business the man.

The essential elements of success in bee-keeping are, location and qualification. When either of these is lacking failure is certain. We can select our location; but to be fully qualified is no small attainment. It is to know how to direct the efforts of the busy workers so that they will be able to gather the greatest amount of honey possible. It requires patient study to learn the laws that govern their actions. And to this end we meet in conventions, that we may compare notes and experiences, and thus give to all the benefit of the knowledge of each. Our interests are one, then let us do all we can to assist each other and thus raise our sweet occupation to a higher standard of perfection, and to that end let each add his mite to promote the interests of this association in this western part of Ontario.

Then followed a number of short speeches from bee-keepers present expressive of the pleasure and profit experienced in the meeting.

Adjourned to meet in Tilbury Centre on the 16th of March next at 10 a.m.

E. J. Bradsen, Sec.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

BEE-KEEPING AND BLACKSMITHING.

BYRON CASE.—In regard to the McIntosh and Harrison case I would like to say I have kept bees ten years, combined with blacksmithing. I have kept from two stocks up to one hundred and seventy and have kept them up close to the shop at the back side within less than one foot of the door and all of my bees within five rods of the shop, with no tight fence to guard the road nor the shop, and I store honey and combs over head in the shop. My bees have been German, Italian, Cyprian and Hybrids, and I have had some very cross bees and they never bothered any more in the shop than they would if they had been one mile away. The honey crop in this section was a light one. I started the season with 124 and increased to 173 and I have got 147 of them packed away in a cellar 12x16 ft. and 26 back outside. This cellar is a very damp one, the temperature stands at 44 at present and has not varied one degree from that since the bees were put in, 38 degrees is the highest and 42 the lowest it has ever been. I think some bee-keepers are too much afraid of water in the cellar. I prefer a damp, warm cellar for my bees. In the fall of 1885 I put in 136 stocks and in April, 1886, I took out 133 in good shape and there was about six inches of water in the cellar at the time. The cause was by the drain being stopped. This cellar is in under dwelling house, bottom grouted, lathed and plastered over head and well ventilated. This cellar I have wintered in four years with very little loss.

Navarino, Dec. 18th, 1886.

ITALIANISING.

ROBT. KENNEDY.—(1) I have black bees and can't catch the queen. Her Dark Majesty evading me as often as I have tried to Italianise. If, when a swarm is about to issue, I place a queen trap before the entrance and capture the queen would another queen (Italian) be accepted by the swarm, removing the old hive and placing new hive and queen on the old stand?

We do not bother with queen traps. By placing a cloth in front of the hive in which you intend to have the swarm you may dip off the bees and pour them down in front of the hive allowing them to pass in and catch the queen as she is passing in with the bees. But why not cage the queen in the hive before they swarm, if you wish to Italianise them? By the following plan we catch black queens one every minute or about that.