

of experiments and experiment stations, and firmly believe that bee-keeping would be greatly aided in each state and province, where bee-keeping is a leading or important industry if the experiment stations in each state and province should secure an able apiarist to give his full time and energies to the work of experimentation, and if these apiarists should work together to advance the general apiarian interests.

Therefore we ask that the bee-keepers in all such states urge the importance of this matter before the directors of the stations, and ask such action as will secure the services of an apiarist in each station. And cease not to urge until success is secured.

A. J. COOK,  
DR. A. B. MASON,  
J. A. GREEN.

A discussion followed. Some doubted that less bees were being kept, some were sure more were kept, more honey was offered for sale; others stated that in their locality hardly a bee hive could be found. Everything considered, the evidence went to show that in some localities the keeping of bees was becoming a thing of the past; in others it was very much on the increase. This was owing to adaptibility of locality, inexperience of bee-keepers and other causes. Everything considered, bee-keeping, although on the increase, was not as much so as might be expected from the increased amount produced. Added knowledge resulted in larger and better crops of honey for the natural advantages offered.

2 P. M. WEDNESDAY.

The session was opened by the reading of a paper written by Mrs. L. C. Axtell, Roseville, Illinois,

#### WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

Mrs. Axtell's remarks appeared to be in the direction of keeping bees with the least amount of care and attention. Large brood chambers were advocated to prevent swarming.

The topic, as handled, created a good deal of discussion. Mr. Wilcox thought the paper was particularly applicable to the locality of the writer. This again lead to a discussion, the general drift of which appeared to indicate that the size of the brood chamber depended upon if comb or extracted honey is to be taken. If comb honey the chamber must not be too large, if extracted the same amount of crowing is not necessary. Again, for comb honey the brood chamber should be filled in time to prevent unnecessary bees from being

hatched, in other words bees which will not be able to assist in the honey harvest. Hon. R. L. Taylor wanted to know, if Mrs. Axtell objected to handling the combs, why she did not use the New Heddon Hive.

The editor of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL thought if experience had taught us anything during the past five or ten years it was that the impression was an erroneous one that bees did not require care, attention and experience.

The idea that queens were more readily superseded when they swarmed was considered doubtful by C. P. Dadant. He found that in colonies in which the bees did not swarm for years the bees superseded their queens as readily as in others. A. N. Draper, in his terse and emphatic way, stated, "A small hive will do for comb honey but for extracted we want a large hive."

Another thought the question was not what system will allow us to give the least attention, but what hive and system will give us the best results. He knew of no occupation which gave good returns without work.

R. L. Taylor wanted all feeding to be done in the fall of the year as far as possible. He liked the Heddon hive if the bees could only fill a brood chamber to the capacity of five Langstroth hives in time for the honey flow. He gave them a shallow Heddon brood chamber with supers on top, and fed the colony sugar syrup for winter stores.

A number of votes were now taken to decide the preference of bee-keepers for hives. Although at one time fully 250 members were in the hall, a great many refrained from voting, yet some of the results are suggestive.

The president, Doctor Miller, asked which hive members preferred—the eight or ten frame Langstroth hive for comb honey. The eight frame men were in the majority; 16 favored the ten frame, 42 the eight frame. Only one had changed from eight to ten; 24 had changed from the ten to the eight frame.

It was thought that the capacity of the average queen was not up to the ten frame hive, and it would be better to crowd 20 to 25 per cent. of the queens than give 75 to 80 per cent. too much room.

Another wanted to know if a good bee-keeper would allow the brood chamber or queen to be crowded if the bees would be likely to mature in time for the honey harvest.

Hon. J. M. Hambaugh wanted all the bees he could get for fall flow. Another