

## A GREAT CONVENTION

### BRANT DISTRICT BEE-KEEPERS PROFITABLY DISCUSS THE BUSY BEE

#### Feeding for Winter—Comb Honey—Wax Production—All ably dealt with

Brant District Bee-Keepers held their annual Convention in Brantford, Jan. 21-23, as announced. The sessions were largely attended not only by local bee-keepers, but also by prominent bee-keepers from the United States and from other parts of the Province of Ontario. Among these we might mention L. A. Aspinwall, Jackson, Mich., ex-president of the National Association U.S.; O. L. Hershisier, Buffalo, N.Y.; F. J. Miller, London, Ont., President Ontario Bee-Keepers Association; R. H. Smith, St. Thomas; H. G. Sibbald, Toronto; Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn; W. A. Chrysler Chatham; Jas. Armstrong, Cheapside; D. Anguish, Lambeth; F. A. Gemmell, London; Arthur Laing, Ash; Fergus McMaster, St. Marys; Egerton Shaver, Ancaster; J. Burgess, Princeton; G. W. Tebbs, Hespler; James Fearman, York; Dr. Burt, Simcoe; Edwin Trinder, Simcoe; Lee Beaupre, Simcoe; and others.

Mr. C. Edmondson, President of the Brant County Association, occupied the chair at the first session, and in his opening address welcomed the visitors. Introducing the program, the President called upon Frank P. Adams, owner of the "Bow Park Apiary," to open the discussion on the topic for the evening: "Winter Stores, Natural or Artificial, Which?" — "When Given and Where Placed?" Mr. Adams, speaking from his personal experience, said he was decidedly in favor of feeding sugar syrup and early in the fall for winter stores [the majority of those present agreeing with him on this] and that the strength of the syrup should be two-thirds sugar to one-third water. Messrs. Aspinwall and Gemmell advocated the addition of a little tartaric acid to prevent the syrup candying. Messrs. Sibbald, Miller and others did not think the acid necessary. In making the syrup, Mr. Adams brings the water to boiling point,

then adds the sugar and feeds the syrup warm. Mr. Miller dissolves the sugar in cold water and feeds the syrup cold; he considers that boiling is unnecessary and a waste of time. Mr. Aspinwall thought that Mr. Adams had made a good point in claiming that there is an economy of time in melting the sugar in warm water, and also in the bees taking down the warm syrup more rapidly. He believed that the acid might be dispensed with when feeding early.

On the question whether contraction of brood chamber for wintering is essential, Mr. Chrysler remarked that the ideal condition is to have just the number of combs that the bees can comfortably cover. Mr. Laing objected to the contraction system, owing to the difficulty of disposing of the extra combs and the danger of spreading foul brood, in case it existed in an apiary, by the interchange of the combs in the following spring. Mr. Sibbald said he practised contracting the brood nest, but he rendered the combs taken out into wax, inserting frame with full sheets of foundation in their place to complete the hive the following spring.

Regarding time for feeding, many advocated this being done as early as possible, local conditions and late brooding had to be taken into account, but the work should be done the middle of October. Mr. Aspinwall said that if the bees are well and early packed, they can be fed at almost any time.

Reports on wintering to date showed conditions to be generally favorable and that bees are wintering well both inside and outside.

#### SECOND SESSION

Mr. D. Anguish, Lambeth, read an excellent and pointed paper on "Some Don't's in Bee-Keeping," which was loudly applauded. The