

Mo.; Mrs. M. E. Fredenburg, Johnson, Neb.; C. E. Parks, Watertown, Wis.; Mrs. S. E. Sherman, Salado, Texas; H. J. Newberry, Topeka, Kan.; F. G. Hopkins, St. Joseph; Mrs. S. H. Larch, Savannak; Miss Lulu Williams, Sedalia, Mo.; R. B. Leahy, Higginsville, Mo.; Miss E. A. Conry, Florence, Kan.; J. R. Milne, Elm Grove, Mo.; J. T. Van Perton, Linn, Kan.; Paul M. Francis, Mulberry, Mo.

The president appointed the following a committee on the revision of the constitution and by-laws: Messrs. G. W. York, A. I. Root, Doctor Miller, W. Z. Hutchinson and Frank Benton.

This was followed by a paper

PROFITS IN BEE-KEEPING

by J. W. Rouse, Mexico, Mo.: I will not attempt an estimate of all the profits to be obtained in keeping bees, but will refer merely to one phase of the question. I take the position that it pays any fruit grower to keep a few bees even should no honey ever be obtained from them. Many bee-keepers do not advise others to undertake the keeping of bees for the reason that so many beginners will not study up how to care for the bees nor attend to them properly, and so make failures. While this is true in many instances so far as honey is concerned there is also very many instances of failures in all avocations of life. The bees are very great aids in the proper fertilizing of fruit blossoms, and while in favorable seasons a few bees may accomplish much in a considerable territory, in an unfavorable season, such as a cool or wet time during fruit bloom, it may be only those blossoms that are near where bees are kept that receive any benefit from the latter.

A. I. Root, Medina, O.—I have read many reports and much correspondence and it made me feel sad to see the poor reports for the season. Some, of course, claim that nothing at present pays. He felt bee-keepers in the United States should hang on for better seasons. Sometimes he questioned himself was it the fault of the season or of bee-keepers, those the most enthusiastic appeared to do fairly well. Did we lack enthusiasm and faith?

Hon. C. Grimm, Jefferson, Wis., U. S.—I admit there is not the profit in bee-keeping there was when modern bee-keeping was first being introduced and an Italian colony in the movable frame hive sold for \$25 and extracted honey sold at a high figure. My brother at his death left \$50,000 made out of bee-keeping. Bees at their present price in the spring was low so was honey, but he did not feel discouraged.

R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont.—

Owing to competition and the skill which some have, it is more difficult to make large profits from bee-keeping, but we winter with greater certainty and knowledge and produce for less money. I think failure is in part due to seasons and in part to the bee-keeper. Take the past season, owing to the cold and wet following beautiful weather there was much brood in the hive and bees stimulated during that time appeared to have a very decided advantage when the honey flow came. The queens in other hives stopped laying and in some cases even the drones were killed and brood destroyed. Now as a rule I do not favor stimulative feeding but in this case it appeared to pay well. Bee-keeping is something in which no cast iron rules can be laid down, but everyone must to certain extent do their own thinking.

A. I. Root.—Mr. Boardman, of New York state, had this season given stimulative feeding and thought that under certain conditions it would pay well to do so.

F. H. Richardson, Laclede, Mo.—I think stimulative feeding will sometimes pay and sometimes not. I have 169 acres of land besides my bees. I have strong faith in bee-keeping.

Frank Benton, Washington, D. C.—I think stimulative feeding very important whenever the bees cannot gather stores from natural sources, and there is yet hope for the bees breed through stimulation being able to take part in the honey flow. The race of bees made a difference, some required less stimulation than others.

Mr. Richardson.—I think there is too much attention paid to color, we ought to look after other desirable qualities more.

Pres. Abbott.—A very light color shows a sport, we want a true type, sports are constitutionally weak.

Doctor C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ills.—Suppose you have pure Italians and nothing else in the vicinity, what is the tendency?

Pres. Abbott.—They incline to become lighter but they are distinctly marked.

Mr. Richardson.—A breeder of these light colored bees told me they were too short-lived. That would bear out the idea that they are constitutionally weak and sports.

Mr. Holtermann was asked why he objected to stimulative feeding as a rule.

Mr. Holtermann.—Because the queen will generally lay as fast as the bees of the hive are able to take care of the brood. If bees are unduly stimulated before young bees begin to hatch the old bees continue to get fewer in number and the brood may get chilled. To feed after honey flows, say in