

ence, and in fact bringing themselves down to the level of the small and humble bee-keepers like those in Herts. He thought English beekeepers must all feel most cordially towards their Canadian brethren, for were they not brothers? They sprang from the same stock as Englishmen, and were under the same queen, and it was but natural that bee-keepers in the old country should hold out the right hand of fellowship to their friends across the Atlantic. (cheers.) He had, as they all knew, the interest of bee-keeping at heart, and he wanted to see it flourish in Herts. It was for that reason that the system of holding conferences from time to time had been established; and although many circumstances had happened to disturb arrangements—amongst other things the Colonial and Indian Exhibition meetings of the B. B. K. A.—so that no conference had been held since last March, it was thought desirable that the periodical meetings should be given a fresh start by means of an influential meeting like the present. He saw before him many practical bee-keepers, and indeed most present knew something of the subject. However, probably they would not like to stand up and speak on it, but had come there more in the capacity of learners. He was there himself very much as a scholar rather than a teacher, and he looked forward to learning something new in common with themselves. With regard to the production of honey in the Herts district, he could only say that the present year had been a most disastrous one. They had not obtained the amount of honey that was secured the previous year, nor anything like it. There were several things which militated against their success, such as cold, rainy and windy weather, which of course had a bad effect on the bees and flowers too. Wherever he went he heard the complaint of no swarms, or but few swarms. Of course there had been exceptions to that rule, but in every one of these cases the production was smaller than that of the previous year, which was a very favorable season for the Herts bee-keepers. He himself had had a fortunate experience during last season.

To be continued next week.

WEST KENT AND ESSEX BEE-KEEPERS.

MINUTES of a Bee-keeper's convention held in Tilbury Centre Jan. 12th, 1887.

Mr. Geo. Morris in the chair. The convention proceeded to organize a Bee-Keepers' Association for West Kent and Essex, this territory at present being unoccupied by any kindred association.

The following officers were elected for the term of one year:

President—Mr. Daniel Stewart, Stony Point; Secretary—E. J. Burgess, Tilbury Centre; Treasurer—P. W. Richard, Quinn.

The membership fee was fixed at fifty cents per annum and an assessment may be levied equally on the membership to meet any additional expense.

The remainder of the session was occupied in discussing the wintering problem and comparing notes of methods and experiences.

Adjourned to meet at 9 a.m. of the 13th.

The morning session was occupied in discussing the best methods of securing comb honey in marketable shape; how to prevent the uniting of swarms when several issue at the same time, and the comparative merits of the Native, Italian and Hybrid bee. The general verdict was in favor of the Hybrid.

In the afternoon the association took up the subject of movable frames and manipulation of frames and hives; how to control and handle bees and avoid stings; the best method of queen raising and bee-keeping as a business. Mr. N. Smith then read the following essay on

BEE-KEEPING.

It affords me pleasure to meet so many of my brother bee-keepers of the western part of Ontario, for it is with us, as with our bees, a real pleasure to have a good old-fashioned swarming time. But we can boast a better judgment than they, in that we do not occupy the busy season for this pastime, but select the winter months. A very appropriate time, it seems to me, for us to gather and exchange congratulations and experiences, and lay our plans for future action. The little bees must unite their efforts and spend themselves for the good of the common cause, so if we will succeed we must come together upon a common footing, and by a free and social intercourse gain from each other that information and inspiration that will enable us to plan our spring campaign with more certainty of success and pursue it with more energy than hitherto.

Our occupation is one that calls for our best efforts, and we know that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and where can we find an industry that is more worthy of our attention than bee-keeping. It is nothing less than the