

A meeting of the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association was held in the Sons of Temperance Hall. Mr. Mitchell, of St. Mary's presided; and Mr. A. C. Attwood, of Vanneck P.O., Secretary. The following were the subjects on the card for consideration.

1st. What amount of ventilation should be given to stock in winter?

2nd. What is the cause of bees swarming?

3rd. What is the cause of bees leaving the hive after hiving, and how to prevent them?

4th. What are the troubles to be met with in bee-keeping?

5th. What will bee-keepers gain by using the extractor?

6th. What is the great secret of successful bee-keeping?

7th. What is the best method of introducing queens?

The first subject elicited a brief but pointed discussion, in which Messrs. Attwood, Otts, Mitchell and others participated.

The following motion was put and carried.

Resolved—That no rule can be laid down for ventilating a hive, but bee keepers must use their judgment in regard to the place for wintering the strength of the stock, &c.

The second question, "What is the cause of bees swarming?" was laid over for future discussion.

The next question, "What is the cause of bees leaving the hive after hiving, and how to prevent them?" was then taken up.

The chairman incidentally referred to the necessity for a more regular honey market in Canada. At present there are no regular dealers, and consequently no regular demand or price, the result being that some producers realize 25 cents per lb, and others not more than half that price. He thought this might be remedied if the bee keepers took the matter up.

After some debate it was

Resolved—That the cause of leaving the hive after swarming is greatly owing to careless management and exposure to strong sunshine. The only remedy is artificial swarming or plenty of ventilation for natural swarms. Carried unanimously.

The fourth question, "What are the troubles to be met with in bee keeping?" being taken up. Mr. Attwood opened the discussion by suggesting that most of the trouble arises from ignorance on the part of those who undertake to keep them, in trying to do too much with bees before being experience in their habits.

The chairman expressed some trouble from the simultaneous swarming of different stocks. Another great source of difficulty was in the petty larcenies of the bees, one stock stealing from another. He found that one thieving stock demoralized the whole neighborhood, causing them to fight with each other in the most furious manner.

In reply to a question, What was the best food for bees?

Mr. Attwood said that honey was of course the best, but sugar was the best substitute, made into the consistency of honey. But bee feeding was a trouble, an expense, and a loss. He fed a hive a whole winter, about two ounces every other day as regularly as he fed anything else, and in spring he lost them. In the whole he considered feeding very unprofitable.

It was concluded that the troubles were so

numerous and varied under different circumstances that they had to be discovered by each bee-keeper for himself.

The fifth question, "What will Beekeepers gain by using the Extractor?" was then taken up. The extractor is an instrument used for removing honey from the comb without injury to it, thus economizing the wax of the comb, and saving the honey which otherwise would have been used in constructing it. The quantity of honey required for the formation of wax is in the proportion of fifteen pounds to one. Mr. Attwood said that with the aid of the extractor he had frequently taken three-quarters of a pailful of honey from one hive. Mr. A gives information concerning the extractor and recommended it for general use amongst bee-keepers. Last year he commenced on 11 stocks of bees, and let them commence working on old combs. During the year they produced about 40 patent pailfuls of honey.

Another gentleman also recommended the extractor, stating he had used it with success. He thought nothing except an artificial comb would make so much improvement in bee keeping.

The chairman endorsed the statement of his predecessors.

Mr. Attwood said he had been frequently asked if the extractor did not cause robbery? He answered no. The instinct remained to go to the flower. The use of the extractor should be suspended immediately when the bees begin to give trouble, as that is a sign that the season is closing.

Resolved, That this Convention recommended all bee-keepers to use the extractor, from the testimony already given by those who have used them. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

#### BUSH FIRES.

Extensive, mischievous, and in some cases fatal bush fires, have been raging of late, and as prevention is better than cure, the question how to guard against such casualties in time to come is a very important one. We are not going to discuss it exhaustively now, but cannot refrain from suggesting that if dead and fallen timber were removed from the woods, road sides, and other places, the danger from such fires would be greatly lessened, and a most unsightly, slovenly nuisance abated. It is time all such messes were thoroughly cleaned up, and a mass of combustible matter turned to some good use, and rendered incapable of mischief.

#### GREAT APIARIAN GATHERING.

That it may more readily attract attention, we insert the following notice in our editorial instead of our advertising columns.

THE UNION OF TWO NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.—The North American Bee-Beeper's Association held at Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 21 and 23, was a success. 14 States and Canada being represented. They adjourned to meet at Cleveland, Ohio, Dec 6th 1871,