



APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, R. McKnight, Owen Sound, 1st Vice-Pres., Dr. Shaver, Stratford. 2nd Vice-Pres., W. C. Wells, Philipston.

Executive Committee—Dr. Duncan, Embury; J. B. Hall, Woodstock; D. Chalmers, Musselburg; Dr. Thom, Streetsville; M. Rainer, Cedar Grove, and N. B. Colcock, Welland.

MEETINGS OF CONVENTIONS

National Bee-Keepers' Convention—Toronto—Sept. 18, 19, 20.

Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention—Toronto—Sept. 20.

We would take it as a favor if the Secretaries of the various local associations would send us the dates of their meetings. These we would insert until the time, and thus all would know of the time of holding the various conventions. The Rev. L. L. Langstroth, the inventor of the movable frame hive, will be present at the meeting in Toronto.

THE SOUTHERN EXPOSITION.

During this exposition, now in progress at Louisville, Ky., there will be a meeting of Southern beekeepers. In Canada the conditions attaching to beekeeping are, of course, different from those in the South, but still the methods adopted here will be of interest and profit to our more southern brethren. A large number of copies of the FARMER will be distributed during the exposition, and any one desirous of subscribing for this paper will have it sent to them on receipt of the subscription price. We hope to see a large turnout of American bee men at the Beekeepers' Convention to be held at Toronto, on September 18th, 19th and 20th. We will gladly welcome our Southern friends, and we extend to them a cordial invitation.

NORFOLK BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The object of this association is the mutual improvement of its members. The annual membership fee is only ten cents; just enough to cover the Secretary's outlay for stationery and postage. All who are interested in apiculture are cordially invited to attend the meetings; and if they are pleased with the workings of the association, they will then have an opportunity of becoming members. The next regular meeting of the association will be held in the Grange hall, Simcoe, at 2 p. m., on the first Saturday of next month (September). We hope that all the members, and especially those that are on the programme, will make an extra effort to be there.

ELIAS CLOUSE,
Simcoe, Aug. 8th, '83. Sec'y-Treas.

ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The third annual general meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in the City Hall, Toronto, on Tuesday the 20th day of Sept. next, during the second week of the Industrial Exhibition. As the North American Bee-Keepers' conven-

tion meets at the same time and place it has been arranged that the two bodies hold joint meetings in discussing matters pertaining to our common interests, as the leading bee-keepers of America are to be present. This will undoubtedly be the most interesting meeting of apiarists ever assembled in Canada. The venerable Mr. Langstroth and all the prominent bee men of the United States are expected to be present. A profitable time is anticipated and a good turn out requested. The convention will last three days. A meeting for the purely business work of our association will be held sometime during the convention, of which due notice will be given.

R. McKnight,
Pres. O. B. A.

THE CANADA THISTLE AS A HONEY PLANT.

Looking over Prof. Cook's latest edition of the *Bee-Keepers' Guide*, I was somewhat surprised to find that no notice is taken of a very important honey producing plant in Canada, viz: the so-called Canadian or wild thistle, an entirely different plant from the E-chium or blue thistle. I also find no mention of it in Root's edition of Quinby's bee-keeping. I can only account for the omission of any notice in these works of a very important source of honey in Canada by the supposition that it is rare in the United States, as the States of Michigan and New York are our immediate neighbors, I am at a loss to understand why it has not yet crossed the borders and taken the oath of allegiance, it being essentially aggressive, migratory and tenacious in its characteristics. It is now naturalized over the large extent of country, extending from Quebec to Sarnia. Its flowering season extends from the latter end of June to the same time in August. It may then be fairly relied upon for a continuous flow of honey. It ranks in my estimation scarcely second to the old reliable standbys, clover and basswood. During the past season of 1882, when all other sources of honey seemed to fail in this region, even clover and basswood, the thistle came to the rescue of 100 starving colonies in my apiary, and in the space of fifteen days they had accumulated from that source alone, sufficient winter stores. The present season, with an abundant flow from clover, and a partial one from basswood, the thistle has as usual made its delicious aroma perceptible in the extractor, making glad the hearts of the American bee-keepers. The honey from this source is rather thinner than that from clover, clear, not inclined to granulate, of a delicious flavor and aroma, only to be recognized by those who have passed through fields of ripening grain purple with thistle heads nodding to the breeze. However, I would advise no bee-keeper who is yet ignorant of the "pointed" attentions of our bearded friend, to place them in his specimen honey farm, for they will assuredly remain there, and the next generation of men will not call them blessed. Canada I am assured will hold her own as a producer of a prime article of honey as long as her fields are clothed with the lovely clover, stately basswood, and lest though by no means least, the fragrant Canadian thistle.

J. C. THOM, M. D.
Streetsville, Aug. 2nd, 1883.

It is found that the larger the cakes of wax are, the better it keeps, and the higher price it brings. Also, that the more gently it has been boiled, the better it likewise is; for too hasty boiling renders it hard, and this increases the difficulty in bleaching it.

BEE-KEEPING IN CANADA.

The rapid strides which beekeeping has made in Canada would surprise those who think Canadians slow to take up any new thing. The rapidity with which it has been adopted as a means to increase the income, shows that a really good thing can be as sure of quick appreciation in Canada as in any country under the sun. It is only a few years, comparatively, since Mr. D. A. Jones took up the matter, and to-day we are safe in saying the product of honey in Canada is more than double what it was ten years ago. The new style of hive, and the intelligent application of the latest known methods of beekeeping have revolutionized the business to such an extent as would have been thought scarcely possible a few years ago. The inventions whereby bee-keepers are now enabled to take their honey from the hive while the bees are at work, without seriously disturbing them, is a most important factor in the progress of this industry. It is beyond question that, with the new methods, beekeeping has assumed a totally different character. It is now on a thorough business footing. No longer is it considered necessary to commit murder in order to get at the merchantable article. The life of the tiny busy workers is no longer to be offered up a sacrifice on the altar of Mammon. Instead of this, intelligence has been brought to bear, and such appliances devised as have done away with the necessity for this barbarous wholesale slaughter. Then again, the system of the extraction of honey, instead of the old method of straining, has tended to make it much more popular, for by this means consumers get the pure nectar, instead of a mixture of honey, bee-bread, refuse, and dead and decaying bees.

Take any town in Canada now, during the honey season, and it will be found that the sale of the pure article has wonderfully increased. For instance, a shrewd farmer living a short distance from this town, started with half a dozen swarms of bees last year. By a careful intelligent application of the rules necessary to be observed, he increased his swarms to 35 last autumn, besides getting a ton of honey. He told us the other day that he sold every pound, and this was in addition to the usual supply in this district and could have sold five tons had he had it. This year he had already increased his swarms to over a hundred, and has extracted about a ton, and is taking it out steadily every day, and will not have the slightest difficulty in marketing the whole of it in this strip of country between Lakes Erie and Ontario. The only difficulty will be to get enough to supply the increased demand. We mention this to show how mistaken is the idea that there is a risk in starting an apiary on account of the market for the product being by no means sure. The fact is shown in this, as in many other products, that the supply, instead of following the demand, creates it. Customers securing honey, pure, in nice glass jars, feel a natural desire to test it, and testing, are sure to keep tasting, much to the benefit of the apiarist. The man who desires to start an apiary need not fear failure, if he applies the usual rule of business to his work. Let him become thoroughly acquainted with the habits of bees, the best kind of hives, and other appliances; let him see that his bees have plenty of honey producing food, and then attend properly to his marketing, and the result is sure to be, humanely speaking, one of great profit to him. A man, however, must not think he can locate an apiary anywhere and be equally successful, no

matter where he places his bees. There are some localities in which honey-producing plants are not present in quantity sufficient to afford food for many swarms of bees. This is a fact which apiarists must recognize. Of course this, to a certain extent, can be remedied by supplying the deficiency by sowing the seed of such as are required; but these matters must all be taken into consideration. The "business apiarist," who goes into raising bees for profit, must take this into account. The "fancy apiarist" may not consider it of so much consequence; but nevertheless a total disregard of such conditions, even with him, would likely result in the gilt being all taken off the gingerbread, even if the gingerbread itself did not disappear in the operation. In spite of occasional drawbacks there is no danger of bee-keeping relapsing into its condition of some years ago. It is now becoming a recognized business, as susceptible as other business (and no more so), to good or bad management, but with good management is surer than almost any other enterprise in which men enter to make money, to give a good return for the investment.

Bees at this season of the year are generally very vigilant in protecting their stores, especially so if they have a prolific queen. Look out for dog days.

The profit of bee-keeping consists in keeping your colonies strong in numbers. When honey is abundant a large apiary will fill up rapidly in the same time and place that a few weak colonies will barely make a living.

There are three kinds of bees that constitute a swarm proper at swarming time, viz.: the queen, drones and workers. The latter are subdivided into three classes—those of outside and inside workers, and guard bees. Those constituting the outside workers are the bees over 14 days old, that carry in pollen (bee bread), water and honey, and those on guard duty are of the middle age, usually over ten days old—they defend the entrances from all intruders and make war on robbers.

MR. A. SCHROEDER, of Trieste, Austria, under date of May 2nd, 1883, says:—"Mr. G. Dathe, of Germany, has arrived in Joppa with four colonies of *Apis Dorsata*. He is very much disappointed in the fact that those bees will not build combs, neither will they stay on them. One colony decamped, and he was obliged to cut the queen's wings. I hope he will reach Europe with his bees alive, to have them to experiment with for the sake of science. I do not believe the bees are worth anything for beekeepers. Bees are doing well here. Strong colonies wintered well, and are in swarming condition now, if the weather would permit. I will build up nuclei into strong colonies, etc. We have never very cold winters here."

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The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chillsbains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and Positively cures Piles. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by all all druggists.

First grave digger—"Have you heard why the English dudo is not wanted in America?" First citizen—"No, why?" D. G. D.—"Because the Yankee dood'll do."