

Bees and Honey.



OFFICERS OF ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, 1884-5.

President, Dr. Thom, Streetsville; 1st Vice-President, S. T. Petit, Belmont; 2nd Vice-President R. McKnight, Owen Sound; Secy.-Treas. Jacob Spence, Toronto.

Executive Committee—D. A. Jones, Beeton; Wm. Campbell, Cayuga; S. Webster, Doncaster; F. H. McPherson, Beeton; P. C. Dempsey, Trenton.

Communications on the business of the Association, and Bee-keepers' Department of the *Canadian Farmer* to be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, 251 Parliament St., Toronto.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

In announcing that we have disposed of the *Canadian Farmer* to the publisher of *THE RURAL CANADIAN*, we beg to intimate that we have made an agreement whereby the members of the O. B. K. A. are to receive the combined paper on the same terms as they have in the past received the *Canadian Farmer*. The publisher has also agreed in uniting with us to reserve one page for bee-keeping interests, which space will be entirely under control of your Association Secretary, and devoted to your interests. We have no doubt whatever that if any extra space is at any time required, it will be freely given for reports, communications, correspondence, etc., devoted to your loved industry.

In bidding adieu to the beekeepers of Canada as publishers of their organ, we can only say that they have dealt most honourably with us, and that they have borne patiently with many of our shortcomings, which we are bound to say were never intentional or the result of carelessness. Much trouble has always been experienced because the Secretary and the *Farmer* were situated distantly from each other; but now they will both be in the same city, and your Secretary will have much more immediate control over your department.

The publisher, Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, has been considering the advisability of publishing a Canadian bee journal; but has now given up that idea, and will henceforth spare no expense in making your bee department attractive and valuable.

We wish you all success, and hope to meet you at our next annual gathering, and to learn that you think highly of *THE RURAL* and its Bee Department. W. H. MONTAGUE, Editor.

The publisher of *THE RURAL CANADIAN* accepts the trust involved in the foregoing transfer of interest; and until the next annual meeting of O. B. K. A. pronounces for or against the continuance of our relations, will do everything in his power to make this department useful and interesting to every beekeeper in Canada. It is scarcely necessary to add that in this department, as well as in every other portion of the paper, we are free from entangling alliances with the supply business, whether in agricultural implements, trees, seeds, or apianian requisites. No outsiders can influence the editors; and at all times and in every connection, the best interests of our patrons shall have first and constant consideration. Correspondence from beekeepers is always welcome. This may either be sent to the Secretary-treasurer of the Association, 251 Parliament street, or to the editors, 5 Jordan street, Toronto.

We want an agent in every locality where one has not yet been appointed. *THE RURAL CANADIAN* is popular, and a canvass usually results in a good list. Liberal commissions allowed. Write for terms.

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND RURAL CANADIAN.

In undertaking the responsibilities of the *Canadian Farmer's* arrangements with the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, the main difficulty to be met seems that of substituting our monthly *RURAL CANADIAN* for a fortnightly paper. We wish to state very distinctly that it is our fixed purpose to supply in some fair measure, not only what will be full equivalent in value, but also both suitable and acceptable to the Association, officers and members.

Owing to delay in negotiations and transfer, we are unavoidably behind time as well as defective in present issue. Some of the Apiary Department being what ought to have appeared in the *Canadian Farmer* long before now; leaving an accumulation of interesting bee-lore on hand, which it is hoped may yet be used to good purpose in rendering this department—as nearly as practicable—what is wanted by bee-keepers. Meantime meeting the emergency by devoting two pages instead of one to "bees and honey," and asking reserve judgment until opportunity is had for putting into your hands, more ample evidence of our good intentions in general, and specially in the best interests of the beekeeping fraternity.

TORONTO HONEY MARKET.

Quite a number of anxious sellers from the country have been canvassing city stores offering honey at reduced prices, but do not seem to have accomplished much in sales. The times are decidedly hard, and honey being accounted chiefly as a luxury can be done without. Then the low price of sugar and fruit has influences. However, honey is assuredly growing in favour, and the city increasing rapidly, no doubt in the near future a much larger honey consumption may be fairly anticipated. The best extracted is mostly held at ten cents, and section at eighteen to twenty cents per pound. The early spring months of the year have been the best part of the season for sale. The present season, no doubt, may be looked for as like the former in this respect.

TORONTO CONVENTION.

Questions—(continued).

Shall we clip the queen's wings? MR. WELLS always clips. There was some difference of practice and opinion, but the clipping seemed to have most supporters.

What time should bees wintered in cellars be taken out? MR. CORNELL.—When soft maple blooms or first pollen is to be had. MR. WEBSTER would keep them in as late as they could be kept at rest up to near the end of April. Several others condemned too early taking out.

How many members close up the entrance on cold bright days in spring, to prevent the bees from being chilled? Over half of those present either done so, or heavily shaded the front of the hives.

Can feeding be successfully done in cellars during winter? There was quite the usual divergence of opinion expressed, but no practical experience forthcoming. The placing of full combs of stores gently close to the cluster appeared to obtain most favour. But the unanimous conclusion was that before cold weather in the fall is the right time to make sure that bees have ample sealed stores to do at least until spring, when they can be fed to advantage with good sugar syrup or stores in combs kept over for the purpose.

CORRESPONDENCE O. B. K. A.

The Secretary-Treasurer has lately had many and grievous complaints from subscribing members, chiefly regarding irregularity of delivery; and much, too, as to the non-appearance of important questions and articles forwarded. This unsatisfactory state of affairs may have been in some measure due to distance of publication office of *Canadian Farmer* from that of the Editor of Bee Department. It would be waste of words now to cry out about past shortcomings, more than to prepare the way for saying, firstly, that this very undesirable condition of things has been painfully recognized; and, secondly, that correspondence is earnestly solicited with assurance that efforts shall not be spared to bring our part in this up, at least, to what the *Canadian Farmer*, as organ of the O. B. K. A. was at its best.

DISINFECTING HIVES.

JACOB SPENCE, Esq., Sec'y O. B. K. A., Toronto.

DEAR SIR.—Referring to the article in the *Canadian Farmer*, of 30th of April last, by Wm. McEvoy, would Mr. McEvoy kindly state whether he takes any precaution to disinfect hives in which foul brood has been. One would judge that he does not consider this necessary, and that all he apprehends danger from is the infected honey. Disinfecting the hive seems to be a necessity, generally considered all-important by bee-keepers who have combatted the disease.

Yours truly,

R. W. McDONNELL.

Galt, Dec. 30th, 1884.

HALDIMAND BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The eighth quarterly meeting of the above Association was called at Canfield, Ont., on Dec. 12th, at one p.m. In the absence of Mr. E. DeCew, DeCewsville, Mr. Stewart was appointed chairman. The Association was organized some two years ago, much to the benefit of surrounding bee-keepers. The meetings are quarterly. Mr. E. C. Campbell, of Cayuga, the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

The first question for discussion was

THE BEST FORM OF HIVE.

W. Kindree, of Rainham, stated that he had used several; he did not feel very positive regarding any, and under the circumstances he would say the one which he made himself he preferred. H. B. Jones, of Brantford, stated it would be valuable for every one to speak on this subject, stating the points of merit each one claimed for his hive, and by an intelligent discussion many valuable points might be brought out. Wm. Kindree then stated he had been very successful in wintering, and shows by the report that his yield has been as large as any. His frame is eleven by thirteen; he thinks if less the bees will be too close to the under currents of air, which would be injurious to the bees. He winters on the summer stands. He prefers manipulating sides in introducing, if the queen is balled on the bottom board he can see her without taking out combs.

Mr. Jones thought this was of minor importance; the size of frame and of top story hive or not were of greater importance.

Henry Smith, of Rainham, considered one of Mr. Kindree's good points a bad one, viz., taking frames out at the sides; he used them and discarded them; he wanted them lifting out at the top, which appeared to be the general opinion of the convention. He disliked the tenemen' hive, it was too clumsy, although it had advantages in outside wintering; he preferred his frame fourteen by eleven and a quarter for the same reason that Mr. Kindree did his size.