

render permanent the good results of last year's honey exhibit in England, it is desirable that Canadian bee-keepers co-operate in making as large a consignment as possible the coming year, and that the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association be requested to appoint a commissioner to go ahead of the consignment and make sales, it being understood that the Government grant be a guarantee fund for the one commissioner as it was for the four last year, and that after deducting such expenses as the grant does not cover, there be a dividend, share and share alike, among the consignors; also, in case this is done, the members of this association engage, season permitting, to supply at least ten thousand pounds of honey, all such honey to be duly inspected before acceptance for shipment.

THE CANADIAN EXHIBIT.

Moved by R. Knechtel, seconded by T. Simpson, and resolved, that we consider the directors of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association are in duty bound to lay before the bee-keepers of this country a financial statement relative to the Canadian honey exhibit in England last year.

Moved by John Ramsay, seconded by Mark Tovell, and resolved, that the Secretary be directed to send a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the President of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, and that the President of this Association and Mr. R. F. Holtermann represent this Association at the meeting of Directors that may be called to consider this matter.

BEE-KEEPERS AS JUDGES OF HONEY.

Moved by R. L. Mead, seconded by R. Ruddell, and resolved, that agricultural societies be respectfully requested to appoint no parties as judges of honey and apiarian supplies except those who have had experience as bee-keepers.

Mr. R. F. Holtermann then read a brief paper on "Manipulation and Mutilation," pointing out the evils of a too frequent disturbance of the brood nest, which paper was discussed at some length.

MANIPULATION AND MUTILATION.

Progress has been the word for years in the science of apiculture, and if this science lives and thrives, this must still be our motto. We

must aim at producing more per colony spring count, and produce it at a less outlay of capital and labor. Rapidly as has been our advancement, would it not be well to pause and ask ourselves, have we in our zeal overstepped the mark in our outlay of labor, and thus hindered our progress. I refer particularly to the manipulation of the hive

Have we not, as a class, spent too much labor in working with our bees. In early spring, every few days and often more, bees are examined, with the effect:

1st. Quilts torn loose from their sealing, the natural warmth of the cluster is allowed to escape.

2nd. The colony is demoralized for the time completely.

3rd. Opportunity for robbing is given and often the entire apiary suffers.

4th. The danger of having the queen destroyed is great.

5th. By changing the position of the comb the normal condition of the brood-chamber is destroyed. The beginner especially, is apt to spread brood to the detriment of the colony; often causing chilling of brood, which is followed by loss in numbers, lack of energy and other evils consequent upon such results.

Nor is this all. As the season advances, many build up their weak colonies at the expense of the strong, and with rare exceptions, this decreases the average yield of honey in an apiary, especially if our principal flow be early, as has been the case for some years.

Better have twenty strong colonies in an apiary and thirty weak than fifty medium. The danger of transmitting disease by exchanging brood and bees is great and should be avoided at this time when foul brood is abroad. It is a question whether or no foul brood is caused by chilled brood being left to decompose in the combs. The extracting of the brood-chamber and extracting therefrom causes, the handling of all the bees, danger of destruction of the queen, the necessity of extracting unripe honey, or unduly crowding the brood-chamber. The displacement of the brood in part, no matter how great the care exercised. Frequent extracting. The necessity of feeding back should the honey flow cease directly after an extracting, which is often unavoidable.

The practice of removing part of the combs in the fall and their gradual replacement in the spring, is a useless and injurious practice, also the spreading of combs. Our best bee-keepers find no advantage in doubling up colonies in spring or fall.