

Meeting of the Oxford Bee-Keepers' Association.

The above opened at the Court House. Friday, May 17th. The President, S. T. Pettit, in the chair. After the reading of minutes and other routine business the question of spring feeding came up. The question was asked. Is it advisable to feed from now May 17th until clover flow.

F. A. Gemmell—If you want swarms and plenty of bees it will pay.

Upon a vote being taken the majority were in favor of feeding at the time mentioned above.

Mr. Pettit remarked—Admitted that it does pay, one should be cautious not to feed too much so it would be taken into the surplus compartment. He also thought as a general thing it would pay to let the bees have a set back, destroy their queen-cells and give up the idea of swarming. Mr. Pettit then related how he fed his bees by sprinkling with a spray pump with a fine nozzle, syrup upon the grass, he did not feed them because they were short of stores but to excite them, he did thus every two or three days.

Mr. Gemmell thought there was such a break between fruit and clover he thought it well to feed a little loose honey between if a little is coming in, this is not needed.

A communication was then read, written by W. F. Clarke which appeared in the Mail and Empire condemning the proposed Pure Honey Bill before the House of Commons. The reply of R. F. Holtermann upholding the Bill was also read. After discussion strongly disapproving of Mr. Clarke's action, the following was moved by Mr. Gemmell, Stratford, and seconded by Dr. Geo. Duncan, Embro, and carried without a dissenting voice.

That the members of the Oxford Bee-Keepers' Association read with deep regret the misleading and injurious communication in The Mail and Empire from the pen of W. F. Clarke, Guelph, re the proposed Pure Honey Legislation now before the House of Commons. Furthermore that we hereby endorse the action of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association in the direction of getting the said legislation and we unanimously support the bill brought before the House by Dr. Sproule, M. P., and that said resolution be sent to The Mail and Empire

for publication and Dr. Sproule, M. P., at Ottawa.

ADDRESS BY F. A. GEMMELL, STRATFORD.

Mr. Gemmell then gave an address on his trip to California. On his way he passed through Kansas city and Albuquerque in New Mexico, stopping at the latter place two days. The vicinity, is not well settled and there are not many bee-keepers. His next stopping place was in California—San Bernardino. Here he saw several apiaries but did not visit much. From here after a rest he went to Los Angeles which is the centre of a great fruit growing district. Here he went to a bee-hive factory and was fortunate enough to find Mr. Geo. Baodbeck, a bee-keeper, who gave him the names of other bee keepers. He also met "Rambler" well-known through writings in Gleanings and other periodicals, he also met Mr. Dayton—On February 15th the bees had for some time been gathering just enough to stimulate them in brood rearing. After visiting a number of bee-keepers he fell in with Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, Galt, Ont., who went to California about the same time, the two visited J. H. McIntyre, Filmore, California, he was nicely located, being in a good district for honey and near schools and society, good localities for honey were usually isolated and bee-keepers spent six months or so with their bees and then returned home. Mr. McIntyre was close to the river Sespe on the other side of which was a valley a mile wide, in oranges. The mountains were back with sage, Mr. McIntyre had never moved his bees but last year the flow was so poor; he might move them during the present to get both spring and fall flow. He had quite a few invitations from bee-keepers but was unable to accept of many kind invitations. On his way from Los Angeles to Tremore he visited quite a few. There were good bee-keepers and some bees were kept in anything. Oranges began to bloom about April and continued to blossom for about three months some of the old fruit being yet on the tree, the fruit continued ripening for about six months. No many bananas were grown out there. Some oranges bore shipment better than others. Lemons were picked green for shipment. They get fruit bloom honey in April from oranges, peaches and apricots. About May 1st sage came in blossom from which the principal surplus was secured some was also secured from Alfafa later.

There was still in some districts where fruit was dried, trouble between fruit growers and bee-keepers. The hives were very poor, until lately good hives could