

built more gradually by the bees, she would have a better opportunity of placing eggs in the cells as they are built. Mr. Jones recorded instances where bees had perished, and on examination found they had no space for brooding larger than your hand; in the best combs the old bees died, leaving few young ones to replace them, which gradually perished, there had been plenty of stores but no young bees. A great many in purchasing go to the heaviest and think they must be the bees, but he prefers just enough stores and no more. These full foundation sheets are all right, but you must use the extractor and give the queen room to lay. If you give the bees starters, the bees draw it out more gradually and the queen can follow and deposit eggs, and a queen can monopolize sufficient space. The use of the extractor not only gives you honey but it pays you to give the bees sufficient space even were you to throw the honey away. To draw off the foundation, commence in the spring as soon the bees commence capping honey, put foundation into strong colonies with laying queens, place foundation towards centre of brood, leaving sufficient space to allow bees to reach young brood over to foundation frame; if strong, they will draw out combs in 24 hours, when they should be removed, as the queen may deposit eggs in them; if the bees have started, drive combs in them, this should be cut off. Strong nuclei are excellent to draw out combs, if you start in a five frame, you draw out two combs first, say the combs drawn out you exchange for sealed and hatching brood in some full colony, placing the latter in the nuclei and so on, getting your colonies rapidly built up and having combs ready to live your swarms on which are no danger of lagging down, they need only be starters, as the bees generally show great energy in filling them out with mostly worker comb. This is a decided advantage, as the bees can commence gathering and the queen laying without delay, and in three or four days you have a good extracting. If you have a colony strong enough to desire to swarm, and give them starters, they will build drone comb at once; after drawing out the foundation, let them do the latter and then put the comb into a nucleus, having before cut all the drone combs off it.

In regard to an "act to suppress foul brood," Mr. Jones thought it would not be of much benefit; he believed, in Michigan, the act is a dead letter. If inspectors were appointed, their decision should not be final, but the matter should be referred to a committee.

The members then discussed the step about to be taken by the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, regarding local associations, and the following resolution was passed:

We, the members of the Boston Apicultural Society, approve of the scheme of affiliation of local associations, and would heartily join in with any scheme which we believe might be to the benefit of all.

The meeting then adjourned. H.

#### Public Grievances.

Farmers of Ontario, our province has outgrown her pioneer period and conditions which suited our wants half a century ago are now entirely out of place. The original corduroy road and log wheeled truck has been replaced by steel rails and the polished locomotive and the Pullman coach; all our other surroundings have changed in the same ratio, which demand a re-modelling of many of our institutions

which were called into existence by the necessities of early settlement, but which are at present as much out of date as one of our old log wheeled trucks would look if hitched behind an express train. During the past twenty-five years our province may be said to have passed from its construction to its permanent state, and the public and private functions are to-day as different from what they were thirty-five years ago, as those of Algoma are to ours now. When effects differ, causes should differ accordingly; Canada is not a land of sinesures; they will keep no officer without a post, no servant without employment, no laborer without work and no ten men to do the work of one, nor five times travelling over the same road, when once will do as well. Our circumstances have entirely changed and we must change our machinery to suit them; which is the general opinion, and it is the duty of every one who intends to make this great young country his home, to use his best endeavors to make the needed changes, each in his own particular trade or calling, so that any changes will be acceptable to all, for what will benefit one will benefit every individual in a country, either directly or indirectly. Our legislators are willing and anxious to do all in their power, but wish to be advised of the manner or methods most acceptable to their constituents, and it is our duty to meet, consult and aid them in the furtherance of that end. I take the liberty to jot down a few ideas so as to call out discussion and get the readers of the FARMER to aid in formulating the best and most acceptable plans.

#### REDUCTION OF COUNTY COUNCILS.

It is now universally agreed that county councils, as at present constituted, are entirely too numerous for the work to be done; that the assessment law is not equitable, and that other changes in the interest of farmers as a class are needed, which we shall take up in order, as the nights get longer, and our people have leisure to read and discuss.

When during the administration of the late Sandfield McDonald, the present municipal organization was instituted, we were making great public improvements in every county in the Province and costly gravel roads, numerous bridges and other needful improvements, to meet the wants of the rapid settlement then going on all over the peninsula. County councils have much and very important work to do. Each township had to be represented by one of its men, who had a personal knowledge of the wants and circumstances of the people of his municipality, and good counsel and care had to be used that each township bore a fair share of the public expense, and that the

funds were judiciously expended. The thorough and large representation were then needed as some townships were not so well improved as others, and were not so well able to pay as older settled and more favorably situated ones. In those times large representation was not only allowable but a necessity. Now, that state of things has passed away, our county roads and bridges have been established, county buildings erected and all our improvements fixed with, for Huron at least, a board of three commissioners appointed to superintend county bridges and report necessary improvements, so that our large county council, which has grown larger as its work got less, find very little to do save testing the merits of the boarding houses in the county town. One would think that fifty able-bodied men carrying the largest heads in the county should have some work to do more than the equalization of the assessment roll, but it is not their fault that there is not work to do. Circumstances have changed, and even the revision of the assessment will not be needed for the next six years as the county judge, in an appeal case last summer, has fixed it, so that Huron, for the next six years our fifty Reeves and deputies will have one public function to do and that will be to take tenders for printing the minutes of their proceedings, but what the lucky printer will fill his pamphlet with must go hard on his ingenuity.

Though it is not the most natural thing in the world for a person to vote away his own chair, yet very many county councillors admit that their duties in the county town are about on a par with the butcher in a Hindoo city, and Mr. Mowat is of the same opinion and asks us to tell him and his colleagues how the number is to be reduced, and I, on behalf of the farmers, ask you to put your wits to work so as to give the desired information before the next meeting of the Legislature. The Division Granges will give their decision before long.

#### THE HOW OF IT.

Several methods present themselves. First, dropping the deputies, but that would still give too many in a large county, and give a small village voting powers equal to a large township, which would be wrong at both ends. Second, by allowing the township councils of the county to elect from their numbers a committee to do the work of the county council. Third, by giving the present members power to elect five or six of their number to do the work until the next election of members for the Provincial Legislature, when they could be nominated and elected at the same time and on the same ballot papers as the local member for the county, and hold office for the same time, or for

each riding where the county is so divided. To my mind the last is the best plan and, as an amendment, I would suggest that such a board, committee, or whatever we might call them, should also take the place of the road and bridge commissioners of our county, and have supervision over county business generally. A membership of, say five shrewd level-headed men, can do more important business in a day than fifty in five. Put your views on paper and let us compare notes soon. Yours truly, FARMER.

A great deal of butter is injured in quality before the milk is brought from the barn or stable. If poor butter is the result, the housewife or dairymaid is not the one to hold responsible. If cows are well bedded, and the milker uses due care, there will be much fewer complaints of ill-flavored butter.

If milk is brought just to the boiling point, then poured immediately into cans and sealed air tight, it will keep indefinitely. As the air is expelled by boiling, the milk keeps just as canned goods do. If glass jars are used they must be heated so that the boiling milk will not break them. Many families keep but one cow, and this plan will enable them to have milk during the weeks that she is dry.

#### IMPORTANT.

When you visit or leave New York City, save Luggage Expressage and Carriage Hire and stop at the Grand Union Hotel, opposite Grand Central Depot.

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