

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION.

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In the discussion which followed, D. Chalmers, Poole, thought honey ought to be ripened, it should be capped, even then under certain conditions it might not be ripe. When capped under such conditions it should, after extracting be put into a warm room. Mr. Chalmers referred to the thistle honey upon which he took the prize at Chicago, it was barely capped at all, but the cells were shining, as if ready to cap.

S. T. Pettit—There is a time when the cells are ready to cap, having that shining appearance, but not capped. It may then be extracted.

Wm. McEvoy—I saw Mr. Chalmers' honey, it was thistle and very fine. Although not sealed it was ripe, and must have been ready to seal. But take as Mr. Holtermann says, honey generally, throw it out unripe and the thick goes on the bottom and the thin unripe goes to top. He was an advocate of thorough ripening of honey. In referring to the World's Fair he stated he told Mr. Pringle to keep the proceeds from his honey for his (Mr. Pringle's) trouble, but Mr. Pringle had not done so.

J. B. Hall—In Mr. Chalmers' locality, they had a ten days honey flow, the weather dry and honey was ripened very quickly. These conditions were exceptional.

S. Corneil—Nectar varies in density in the flowers, hence a difference. He disagreed with Mr. Holtermann's views on ripening honey artificially.

Mr. Holtermann—I wish to go on record that to advance the idea of ripening honey artificially, as it had been advanced, is injurious to the bee-keeping industry, besides it is impractical.

Mr. Aches—I agree entirely with Mr. Holtermann, to advocate the artificial ripening of honey when it can be done by the bees is injurious.

Mr. Chalmers—I do not think it pays.

Mr. Pringle—I think, after all, there is not much difference in views. I think it unwise to take uncapped honey with the idea of ripening it. Honey may however be ripened afterwards.

In reply to a question, Mr. Pringle stated he certainly advocated the capping of honey first.

Mr. Aches—We should put our foot upon anything but a capped well-ripened honey.

R. McKnight, Owen Sound—I have practiced the artificial ripening of honey, when I deemed it necessary. I think artificial ripening quite satisfactory.

J. B. Hall—It is safest to make the statement to have honey capped before extracting.

S. Corneil—I think honey can be taken when thin and ripened artificially to good advantage.

Mr. Pettit—I agree with Mr. Pringle re ripening of honey. Mr. Corneil may be right, but it is a question of *what pays best*. The best way to ripen is to get plenty of surplus combs and tier up. The bees are like millionaires in their desire for more, and the more honey the bees have the more they want. There is no necessity for keeping linden honey free from clover etc.

Mr. Corneil—I do not claim that a man gets more honey when he ripens artificially.

W. C. Wells, Phillipston—I think it wrong to teach to extract honey before it is ripe.

J. K. Darling—Since 1886 he condemned, putting unripe honey on the market. He mentioned instances where people had preferred dark well-ripened honey to light unripe. Unripe honey had a sharp twang, flavor which is not desirable.

Mr. Holtermann stated if it was admitted that by ripening artificially no more honey would be secured, and by tiering up the bees would themselves ripen the honey, was it not impractical and visionary to advocate artificial ripening.

The time for district or county societies to affiliate with the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was extended to June 1st. of each year.

The committee on legislation, consisting of Messrs. S. T. Pettit, Belmont, J. K. Darling, Almonte; and J. E. Frith, Princeton, then reported upon their work during the past year. Mr. Pettit reported that the committee had gone to Ottawa where they had received a hearing. It was urged by them that bee-keeping increased the wealth producing powers of the country, increased the exports and would increase the comforts of those in the Dominion. It was urged that it had to be gone into more largely if Canada intended to have a foreign market. They urged the importance of having everything done that would give our product a reputation for purity abroad. With butter in Canada people did not sit at the table and eat sparingly of it, thinking it might be buttered. The bill in this respect had given confidence in butter. They urged the same was desirable with honey. Mr. Pettit gave the methods adopted to advance the interests of bee-