

they have enough stores to feed the young ones, for they do not believe in bringing a lot of bees into the world to starve.

A resolution was passed condemning the use of sugar syrup but as a last resort.

On motion meeting adjourned until Wednesday evening 7.30.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION.

Meeting opened in due form but on account of the down fall of rain which began shortly before the hour of meeting, not as many were present as on the previous evening, though the prospects had been for a much larger attendance. The minutes of the first evening were read and confirmed. An excellent paper by Allen Pringle was read by the acting president which we produce herewith.

REPORT OF SEASON.

I regret that I am unable to be present to take my place in the chair as Vice-President in the absence of our worthy President who, as you are no doubt aware, is absent in England attending to our interests in connection with our apiarian exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exposition now in progress in London. I have, however, asked my friend, W. F. Clarke, to take my place in the chair, and this will be a great gain to you for Mr. Clarke, being a good speaker, will make a much better chairman than I could possibly make of myself.

Being much more at home with my pen than my tongue I shall place before you in this way some thoughts and suggestions anent our favorite pursuit of bee-culture, which Mr. Clarke will kindly read to you, and which may possibly be of interest and profit to some of the more inexperienced present.

Before proceeding to briefly treat of *Fall Management and Winter Quarters*—which are timely questions in which we are now immediately concerned—I may refer to the season just past and its results, within the area of my own observation and knowledge here in Eastern Ontario.

As the spring opened here unusually early with very fine, warm weather, my bees were set out of their winter quarters much earlier than usual and got a fine start in brooding in April. May, however, was cool and rather unfavorable, but warm quilts and regular feeding kept up the brood-rearing until the 6th of June, when the flow began from the Alsike and white clover, which date found my bees mostly in excellent condition for the ingathering of the rich nectar which the fields and even by-ways were now so generously yielding. The white clover the past

season hereabouts was unusually abundant, but, according to my observation, it never equals the Alsike in honey yield. It sometimes fails to secrete the coveted nectar, but the Alsike never fails. Every year I seed down more or less acres with this really first-class, standard honey plant, and I would advise every rural apiarist who runs his land more or less for honey, or even merely farm land in connection with bee-keeping, to seed down liberally with Alsike. For purely agricultural purposes it is superior to the red in every respect but one or two, being hardier, a better seed-bearer, and making a fine quality of hay. It is, perhaps, slightly inferior as a fertilizer and as "after-grass" for pasture.

This honey flow from the Alsike and white clover commencing about June 6th, as already noted, continued up to about July 12th. Then intervened about ten days of cool, unfavorable weather, after which the fall yield commenced from thistle, second bloom of clover, buckwheat, etc., lasting till the middle of August. Another break of five days then occurred, after which the yield re-commenced and lasted till about the 1st inst., which terminated our honey season here.

Last year we had no fall honey here: this season the month of August has been a very good one, yielding abundantly from buckwheat, etc. On the whole the honey season here has been a fairly good one, and the bees are in excellent condition for winter, with plenty of stores and young bees. The average yield has been nearly 100 lbs. per colony, one-third or more of which, however, is buckwheat honey.

FALL MANAGEMENT.

The most important part of fall management is to see that every colony has plenty of good stores for winter and a fertile young queen. If you have not during the honey season weeded out the failing queens from your hives, do it at once, and replace them with good ones. It does not pay to put a colony into winter quarters without a good queen. As to stores, if they are deficient, supply them at once with plenty, for to put them away with deficient stores is still worse than to put them away with a poor queen, and where the two evils co-exist the colony might as well be "brimstoned" after the fashion of our forefathers.

What should the winter stores be? I answer, good honey capped over, and pollen. With due respect to our American friend, Heddon, I cannot subscribe to his pollen theory; and consequently do not fear the presence of plenty of pollen in my hives in winter provided there is also plenty of honey. Indeed, I consider the pollen quite indispensable to successful wintering and *springing* (if I may coin a word), for if