

in case the cage rest on any flat surface. The top is covered with a piece of thin wood one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The whole affair weighs just one ounce and is a model of neatness and perfection. Those who order queens of Mr Benton will see how perfectly he puts them up.

### THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS.

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION—THIRD SESSION.

THE third session of the above Association was held in the City Hall Tuesday evening, 15th inst., at 7.30 o'clock, the President, Dr. J. C. Thom, in the chair.

Owing to the non-arrival of the Secretary for a time the meeting was carried on in an informal way. Several subjects were discussed, amongst them being the approaching Colonial and Indian Exhibition at London, Eng., in 1886. Later in the evening J. Laidlaw, Esq., who was commissioner to the Centennial Exhibition from Canada some years ago, also addressed the audience on the same subject.

#### PECULIAR PHENOMENON.

Dr. Thom stated that about July 20th clover began to come in, and that one morning he went out into his yard and found a large number of the bees crawling in the grass, shivering and in seeming misery. Many died, and the stench was somewhat strong. Had written to several, but could not ascertain from them what the trouble was. There seemed to be an unusual number of black shiny bees around.

D. A. Jones could not, he said, say what effect paris green would have on bees, but it had been suggested that that was possibly the explanation of this mystery.

Wm. F. Clark, Speedside, had noticed something similar; bees looked black and shiny, and were crawling around listlessly, but had heretofore heard no solution given.

Mr. Cudmore, Doncaster, knew several who had used slug shot to destroy insects on plum trees. Possibly that might have some effect on it.

Dr. Thom's own opinion was that Paris green was at the bottom of the trouble. He was both druggist and

bee-keeper, and kept a considerable quantity of Paris green on hand. A few days previous Paris green had found a pretty good sale.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

The minutes of former meeting were next read and confirmed. Then came the enrolment of members for the ensuing year.

#### DOUBLING UP COLONIES.

While this was going on the following question came up for discussion; "In the event of stocks being weak in the fall, what would be the best mode of procedure to unite? Should the queens be caged?"

D. A. Jones said that if the weak colonies he wished to unite were in different yards he would bring the colonies together at once; in case they were in the same yard they would need to be moved only a few inches each day until they were sufficiently close together. Then put a new or strange hive between the colonies, lift out the frames from each colony, alternately placing them in the new hive, till you get them all together. If there is no choice between the queens, and queens are plentiful, if both are left in the new colony, one or other of them will shortly be disposed of. If one queen is better than the other, hunt out both queens and cage the best one in the new hive as in ordinary cases; in case one queen was all you had, you had then better cage the queen then too.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, with the following result:

President.....S. T. Pettitt, Belmont.  
1st Vice.....Allen Pringle, Selby.  
2nd do...Mrs. R. McKechnie, Angus.  
Sec.-treas...W. Couse, Meadowvale.

Executive Committee: D. A. Jones, Beeton; Dr. J. C. Thom, Streetsville; S. Corneil, Lindsay; R. McKnight, Owen Sound and J. Spence, Toronto.

The communication from C. B. Robinson with reference to the continuation of the *Rural Canadian* to members was read and after considerable discussion it was moved and carried, that a committee of three, to be named by the secretary, be appointed to decide the whole matter and report.