

But cheap feed is not the only requisite in producing good cattle. There must be the right type of animal to begin with. Five or ten years ago the feeders of South America were not so favorably situated in this regard as they are to-day. At that time they had to depend upon the native stock, which was unsuited to the production of beef suitable for the British markets. However, they did the right thing under the circumstances, and began importing largely of purebred animals of the right type to cross with the native stock, with the result that to day Argentina is our strongest competitor both as regards the quality and quantity of the cattle she exports. The same system of improving the stock has been followed in connection with sheep and horses. Purebred rams of the best breeds have been, and are being, imported in large numbers to cross on the native sheep, and likewise shire and Clydesdale stallions have been brought into the country to improve the quality of the native horse.

Cheap feed and a good breed of cattle seem to us to be the chief factors in the production of cheap beef in Argentina and not the adoption of a silver currency. No matter what value an animal might have under a silver standard, if shipped to a country where the gold standard prevailed, its value would have to be changed accordingly. For instance, a British dealer whose standard is gold would not pay the cattle dealer in South America in gold the value which the animal would have under the silver standard in Argentina. Because an animal is worth say \$100 under a silver standard does not prove that it is worth the same amount under a gold standard. It therefore seems clear that the cattle producer in Argentina will have to figure out his profits on the basis of what his cattle sell for in Great Britain just the same as the cattle producer in this country has to do, and quite independently of the nature of the currency in his own country. The only way in which a silver currency might be of advantage to the South American cattle feeder would be in the cost of labor, but from what we know of that country such is not the case. Relatively speaking, labor costs about as much there as in Canada. A silver currency, no doubt, gives a higher value to all products in the coinage of the country in which it is in vogue, but the real value or worth of the product is not changed in the least. More than anything else, all agricultural products are governed by the law of supply and demand.



### Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association

The annual meeting held at Guelph, Ont., on Dec. 6th, 7th and 8th last, opened at 2 p.m. The president in his opening address mentioned the lessons which had been brought out during the season. He thought bee-keepers in general were good citizens. They had passed through a very favorable season, although some reported a partial failure. There were many attractions in Guelph and the Agricultural College in its vicinity. The prices of honey had been slightly downward. To offset this he advocated better methods of bee keeping and decreasing the cost of production.

Mr. H. G. Sibbald, Cooksville, gave an excellent address on "Spring Management." He advocated early setting out, placing them on the stand they were taken from the previous fall. He examined the hive from below when in the cellar, and those not having clean bottom boards, etc., he marked and attended to when on their summer stands. Light colonies were marked when carried out and stores given. He then left them well alone for about a month. He took combs out the bees were unable to cover, and tried to have the brood chamber well filled with brood at the beginning of the honey flow.

W. J. Brown, Chard, Ont., spoke on "Summer Management." He stated for summer management to be right the previous autumn, plenty of stores for winter, a prolific queen and good wintering. Supers were put on when the clover honey began to come in. He removed in extracting combs sufficiently sealed, and left the balance

until a later stage. He kept the extracting room at a temperature of 90 to 100°. After extracting all the honey it was strained through a cloth.

F. A. Gemmell, Stratford, in an address gave some excellent advice on rendering wax from old comb. He advocated the use of a press, the broken comb after heating being put into a gunny sack and all between the press.

W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich., followed on "Management in Swarming Season." Mr. Hutchinson recommended getting the bees started in the supers before swarming, drawn comb in the first super, full sheets of foundation in those following, which should be put on, and when the bees began storing well, this additional room should be given. He hived the new swarm on the old stand, and advocated a queen-trap and swarm-catcher at the entrance.

R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, followed on "Honey for Market."

First-class extracted honey sells in Canada at 6 to 15c. per lb., more frequently at 6 cents when purchased in large quantities, such as 1,000 to 5,000 lbs., and comb honey at 11 cents. The difference thus far on first-class honey is  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound. Those who consider that in production 70 lbs. of comb honey is equal to 100 lbs. of extracted honey, are considered by the majority of bee-keepers as over estimating the ratio of comb honey, many more say it is 50 to 100 lbs. I am inclined to believe that with the best management the first is right, but with a bee-keeper not thoroughly experienced, or not having time to apply his knowledge, it may be even less than the latter, but taking the ratio of 70 to 100 pounds of extracted would bring generally \$6, while the 70 lbs. of comb honey would generally bring \$8.40. With  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents deducted, which is the cost of foundation, sections, and crates, this leaves \$7.30, a difference of 30 cents.

#### COMB HONEY FOR MARKET.

In producing comb honey for the market it is desirable to keep colonies strong, to know when the supers should go on and when they should come off. In going through the country I have time and again seen sections on the hives, even freshly put on, when there was not the slightest hope that the bees would do anything with them. I have seen them on colonies so weak that they could not take care of a full brood chamber, to say nothing of these supers, and producing surplus honey suitable for market. While we find such frequently the case, these errors can be comparatively easily avoided. To prevent inferior honey from being stored in the sections is, however, more difficult. The bringing from the brood chamber into the super inferior honey, and the storing of early gathered honey, can be avoided, first by shifting and uncapping honey, compelling the bees in strong colonies to convert dark honey into brood. If the bees require more room than the brood chamber affords, the extracting supers should be put on, and if there is any spare energy let the bees pull out sheets of foundation. Combs thus newly built offer an excellent opportunity for watching the color of the honey coming in from day to day, and at the opening of clover, just as soon as the bees cease bringing in (or up) dark honey, the sections are put on. To avoid cull sections towards the close of the season, we then change to extracted honey. This system has been the most satisfactory to us. Although we depend upon buckwheat as a crop, we do not consider, if it can be avoided, that it pays to finish with dark honey sections having a considerable quantity of light honey.

#### EXTRACTED HONEY.

In extracting honey a little too much does less harm than not enough. Two, or even three, supers on one hive can be used to great advantage, and this additional investment will do much to help the bee-keeper to decrease the cost of production. In running for extracted honey the danger of having dark honey carried up from the brood chamber is greater than with comb honey. To watch the extracting supers at the opening of the season would result in much