

BRANT COUNTY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Brant County Bee-Keepers' Association met in the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday afternoon, October 29. There was a fair attendance and a good deal of interest shown by those present. Being the annual meeting, full reports were made, including those of the season's honey crop by members, which showed an average of about 35 lbs to the colony, all told. Officers were elected for the ensuing year, and delegates were appointed to the Provincial association meeting at Toronto, November 15-17. At the election of officers Mr. Chris. Edmondson, Brantford, was re-appointed president; Mr. James H. Shaver, Cainsville, vice-president, and W. J. Craig, Brantford, secretary-treasurer.

Letters were read from the president of the Provincial association, and Mr. H. B. Cowan, secretary and manager of the Fruit, Flower and Honey Show, relative to the suggestion offered at the spring meeting regarding the arrangement of the prize list for the Provincial Honey Show, to provide for county as well as individual competition; the suggestion being favorably received. It was decided to bring the matter up at the meeting in Toronto.

The proper time to place bees in the cellar, or wintering house, was a subject of general discussion. Mr. C. Edmondson said, "never to put them away before settled cold weather," Mr. R. F. Holtermann "as nearly as possible after last flight, about 15th or 20th November." The question was asked "What packing should be used for cellar wintering" and "whether four inches of cut straw and chaff in a comb honey super would be sufficient," and answered that sufficient

should be used to prevent any collection of moisture on the quilt or honey-board. The four inches of chaff would be all right, but no cover should be used. Bottom boards should be raised 3-8 inch at back. Discussing winter stores, opinions were that when full combs of honey are added they should be placed to one side of the cluster rather than in the centre, or scattered through the brood chamber.

The Requisites for Successful Wintering Bees

The wintering problem is one of great importance in all the northern States, and winter losses have discouraged many a bee-keeper who started out with enthusiasm. No one with only a few years' experience would care to speak with much confidence of what he has done, for fear that a heavy loss in the future might dispel the delusion that he has solved the problem, and mastered the situation.

Winter Losses That Are Avoidable.

I have been wintering bees for twenty years, and considers that my success entitles me to draw a few conclusions from the experience of that of the past. I can say that in all that time I have not lost any colonies the loss of which could have been avoided by certain conditions which appear plain to me. In considering winter losses I wish to ask this question—Why is it that one colony will come through in good shape, and another die when both are exactly alike as far as hives or protection is concerned? Must we not conclude that the cause of death in one is due to some defect in the colony? Could not a large percentage of the winter