

missioners with marked attention, and treated us with the greatest kindness and courtesy. Our brother bee-keepers over in the mother country gave us a right royal reception, and vied with each other in making us feel happy and at home during our stay with them. In order to hold and extend the vantage ground in England, a much larger quantity of honey must be produced in the future than in the past. Extracted honey is most used. The supply must be sure and constant, and of the very best and brightest quality, and only that quality sent. No sugar should be fed either for winter feed or stimulating brood-rearing, as ever so little getting with the honey and sent to England or the Continent, would be a sad and calamitous blight upon our future prospects there. I would recommend urgently the tiering-up system, so that the bees may have ample room for storing, while ripening and capping their honey. The greatest weight of evidence goes to show that bees can and do ripen honey better than man. No one claims that the artificially cured article is superior to the natural, while many of the most prominent bee-keepers in the world vigorously contend that the bees are away ahead in that line of business. We are all perfectly safe in trusting the bees to continue the work at which they have been so eminently successful in all ages of the past. The difference in the amount will not be so very great. I believe the keeping quality will be greater, the grain finer and smoother, the clearness and brightness increased, and the flavor superior, if the bees finish the work. This statement is made with all due respect to those who, through defect of the power of taste, think differently."

Members present passed a vote of thanks to the president for his address.

The foul brood question next came up. Briefly, foul brood is a disease not affecting the bee, but affects the larvæ, which dies in the cell, and the particular disease mentioned is contagious, and if proper steps are not taken to prevent its spread, will endanger the existence of the colony, and through contagion, that of colonies in the vicinity.

This disease has had an existence for ages, but with our present advanced method of bee-keeping, the danger of its spread has also been increased, and in consequence the association appointed a committee to wait upon the Ontario Legislature, to ask for an act to assist in preventing the spread, and to stamp out this contagious disease.

Mr. S. Corneil, of Lindsay, stated that until an apian department was established at the Ontario Agricultural College, which was much needed, he would move that a committee be appointed to wait upon the commissioner of agriculture, to ask the Government to pay the expenses of a scientific lecturer on bee-keeping, to give a course of lectures to bee-keepers.

Mr. Corneil then stated he had in view Mr. Frank Chesshire, of England, who, he thought, could be induced to come out for his expenses.

Several objected on the grounds that that gentleman would be too deep for the average bee-keeper.

Mr. Corneil was then asked if he would not embody a request that an apian department be established at the college. To this, however, he objected.

The motion to engage a lecturer was then rejected, some being of the opinion it would be of no practical value; others, it would bring on too many bee-keepers; others, they were not warranted in asking the Government to make such an outlay at present.

The evening session was set aside as a mark of honor to the commissioners who visited England with the Ontario honey: Messrs. S. T. Pettit, of Belmont; S.

Corneil, of Lindsay; R. McKnight, of Owen Sound; D. A. Jones, Beeton.

Mr. Pettit gave a very interesting account of the quality of honey from other colonies, all of which he had examined very carefully. He stated there was only one sample, one from New Zealand, which could even suggest itself as a rival, and it could never be produced in large quantities, and Canadian honey was ahead of it. He made no comparison with British honey; it was good, and some preferred it to Canadian. If bee-keepers in Ontario would be careful to send only the best and clearest honey to the old country, and worked harmoniously, by degrees their honey would extend its market in Britain and Germany, and they would have a ready market for all they could produce. He condemned strongly sending any dark grades, as it would give other countries an opportunity of palming such grades—of which they could produce much—off as Canadian, and probably injure their market for all grades. If they send their light only, no country could imitate them.

Mr. Corneil gave an interesting and instructive account of his mission. A mistake had been made in sending too large packages of comb and extracted honey. 1lb. packages went well; they had sold much in 4 oz. packages. A crate with 2, 4, 6 or 12 sections of honey, was better than 18 and 24, and as much of the comb as possible should be displayed.

Mr. McKnight related in a pleasing manner some of their efforts to popularise honey. Several tons had been distributed in spoonfuls to visitors as samples. Their honey had reached the Queen's table, that of the Prince of Wales, and many others of prominence. He made bold to say had they been there at the opening of the exhibition instead of its close, they could have sold all the honey produced in Ontario this year in their building.

January 7, 9 A. M.

The hive question came up. Messrs. Pettit, Hall, Emigh and others took part. The general impression was that a hive, from 8½ to 9 inches depth of comb would be the proper thing, with one or more supers for taking the surplus honey, would be the best hive. A few liked a deeper equally well, none a shallower.

The advisability of using perforated metal was discussed. All were in favor of its use as being a great help in taking comb and extracted honey, especially the latter.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Mr. S. T. Pettit, Belmont, re-elected President; Mr. J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Vice-President, with a director from each of the various agricultural districts, who re-elected Mr. W. Couse, of Meadowvale, Sec.-Treas., for the coming year.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, Ont.

Horticultural.

The Price of Experience.

Knowledge gained by *experience* is certainly the most valuable, but it is frequently obtained at an exorbitant price. We should not forget in its acquisition, that the experience of others is of quite as much value as our own when properly attested, and in this way we are often spared the trying ordeal of obtaining it through direct personal effort. By duly heeding this matter, we may save ourselves many a trying ordeal, and the humiliation of many a painful mistake.

In this we see the importance of keeping a record of experience that is useful, and of giving access to it to all who are likely to receive benefit by being thus favored. We are thus furnished with one of the most

powerful reasons for the manufacture and circulation of farm literature, for in its essence it consists but of the records of the experience of the past.

It is humiliating sometimes to tell our experience, especially when the results have been very adverse, and when they might have been very different had we but catered from the experiences of others in laying our agricultural plans. But when the rehearsal is likely to prove serviceable to anyone, we should not hesitate. To do so would be cowardly and might be unkind to our neighbor, hence our reasons for giving our dear bought experience to the readers of the JOURNAL in the attempt to grow apples.

In walking across ten acres of low lying black loam one day, several years ago, in the company of a nurseryman whom we still respect very highly, he stopped in the centre of the field, and sinking the toe of his boot into the pleasant soil, he said, "This would make a fine place in which to plant an apple orchard." This was a dangerous thing to say to a young man owning such a piece of land, in the prime of life, who, from an early day had loved to work with trees, and who was without not a little impulsive.

The next autumn found the ten acres planted with apple orchard; mostly fine young Baldwins, of splendid quality. What was our surprise the next spring to find at leafing time that the leaves did not appear, although the buds were large, indeed bloated in their dimensions. A few of them finally leafed out in a sickly way, but they did but little good.

Next fall came around and found most of the trees dead, but the following spring they were replanted, and five acres more along with them, of similarly situated ground. These made some growth, but did not look just right in the leaf, and the following spring found most of them dead. Nothing daunted we set to work the same season and replanted, changing the varieties, thinking that by planting Spys and King of Tompkins Co., that they would grow, as we had observed that these had done better than the other varieties. We worked away with these two latter varieties for two or three years, but at length was fairly *beaten*, and had to give up the contest. The sickly survivors were flung out with an indignation not much short of anger, and now a flourishing flock of imported Shropshire Down ewes nourish their young from the vigorous growths of alsike clover that grow in the one place, and a herd of Shorthorns in winter feed upon the mangolds that grow in the other. We have learned something in reference to the value of *adaptation* in farming since we first planted those apple trees.

Now we would not have our readers indulge in the thought that those trees had been improperly treated, and therefore the cause of failure. We can furnish incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. Every tree in each of the plantings was set in by our own hand; partly because we loved the work, and partly from the fear that other hands might not do it properly. Simultaneously we set out two other orchards, five acres and twelve acres respectively, and they have done so well that they are the admiration of the people in the entire neighborhood.

No, we were trying to do in our simplicity what could not be done. Soil such as we possessed did not possess the requisite materials for growing apple wood, and if the trees could have been grown they would not have produced fruit worth anything. It would have been small, smoky, insipid, imperfect.

We would not have it understood that apples cannot be grown on black loam under any conditions, but we would have it known that they do not usually flourish on such a soil; hence the difficulty of growing them in all prairie countries. If the loam were