

a good deal of expense which they would not charge to the Association, so that as we said when the question of display was first mooted, it would need a good deal of back-bone to make the proposed exhibit a success. But all evidence points to the wisdom of making the exhibit, and even should those who sent honey receive no more than the lowest wholesale price derivable in Canada, they will have assisted in a noble work of opening up a market which in future years, while assisting others, will as well be money in their own pockets. The commissioners feel satisfied that they will be able to return to the consignors better prices, however, than we anticipated.

CONVERSATIONAL MEETING OF BRITISH AND CANADIAN BEE-KEEPERS.

A conversational meeting of the British Bee-keepers' Association was held on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at six o'clock, at the office of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Jermyn street, to which the representatives of the Ontario (Canada) Bee-keepers' Association were invited.

Among the large audience assembled were the Hon. and Rev. Henry Bligh, and Mrs. Bligh, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Jones (Canada), Mr. S. Corneil (Canada), Mr. McKnight (Canada), the Rev. G. Raynor, Mr. Glennie, Mr. Garratt, Mr. Blow, Mr. Hooker, Mr. W. B. Webster, Mr. Raitt, Mr. Grimshaw, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Sambels, Mr. Cheshire, Mr. Campbell, Captain Bush, R.N., &c.

The Hon. and Rev. Henry Bligh presided, and in opening the proceedings said he was sure all the members present regretted the absence of the chairman of the Association (Mr. Cowan), and that, on the other hand, they were pleased to have another opportunity of welcoming their Canadian and Scotch friends amongst them. The English bee-keepers looked forward to gaining more experience from these Transatlantic gentlemen, who were so thoroughly conversant with their subject. He hoped the meeting would be conducted in the Canadian style, and be more conversational in its character than usual. He suggested that those desirous of obtaining information on specific points in relation to bee-culture should submit questions to the audience, which could be discussed *seriatim*.

Mr. Lyon asked for information respecting the nature of propolis. Some people believed it was gathered by the bees, and brought into the hive in the same way as pollen was. He had found the underside of quilts completely coated with

that substance, being brought in on the bees' legs. The question in his mind was, is propolis gathered entirely from outside, or is it partially elaborated inside the hive from wax or some other substance?

Mr. W. B. Webster was of opinion that it was carried on the bees' legs in the same way as pollen was; but it was not so easily distinguishable, being of the same color as the leg of the bee. He had seen them gathering it from varnish. No doubt the reason why condemned bees gathered such a quantity was because a new quilt was used, which must be covered at once. They gathered more in the autumn than at any other time.

The Rev. G. Raynor had noticed recently during the fine weather that the bees were carrying in propolis rather largely. It was easy to tell the difference between propolis and pollen, propolis being much more glutinous, bright and shiny; he thought there could be no doubt about the bees carrying propolis in the same way as pollen. What the nature of the substance was he could not say. Several years ago a number of bee-keepers sent out specimens from different parts to Mr. Hehner for analysis, but he had never heard the result of those experiments.

Mr. Garratt pointed out that the propolisation of the quilt and other parts was carried on during the time the bees could fly. At a later period of the year when they were unable to fly it would be found that very little propolisation was carried on, which fact, he thought, went to prove that propolis was gathered by the bees.

Mr. Raitt had often observed bees picking up propolis from old quilts or old hives. Possibly the propolis found in that condition was mixed with wax; and he would like to know if anyone could inform him what effect propolis had upon wax. He had come to the conclusion that the yellowness of wax was very much due to the presence of propolis in it. He had made some experiments in connection with wax, and after bleaching it (a purifying process to destroy color) he found a considerable residue at the bottom of the cake of what had always puzzled him; it was a grey flaky substance, which would dissolve in ether or turpentine, and smelt like wax, but nevertheless was not wax. He wondered whether it was propolis oxydised in the process of bleaching.

Mr. Corneil had often seen bees gathering propolis from old hives. In Canada they also gathered a large quantity of it from a tree called the balm of Gilead, which had a gummy, sticky substance round its leaf-buds. More of it was taken about the time of the close of the honey season than at any other period of the year. With re-