

The Apiary.

Ontario Bee-Keeping Association.

This Association held their annual meeting in the City Hall, Toronto, Sept. 13, 14, 15. The President, Mr. D. A. Jones, of Beeton, in his address said:

Never was there such a severe winter in the experience of bee-keepers as last winter, in fact many who were considered the most scientific bee-raisers in the country had lost all they possessed in consequence of the severe weather. The yield of honey last season, continued the President, was small, but the season was especially good for breeding. The prices of honey, however, will be high, as butter is scarce and high in price. He advised all who had honey to sell, to hold back for a time and a remunerative price would be ensured. One gentleman had told him the previous day, that honey he would gladly have accepted 10c per pound for, a few weeks ago, he had since refused 15c for. The hives he said, should be carefully prepared for wintering, and he would advise all present to make such provision as would ensure the safe-keeping of the bees. He had a number of fine hives spoiled because they commenced breeding in the winter. The proper regulating of bees in the fall was much more important than the wintering of them.

In speaking of the various species of bees, he said he had been led to entertain a very high opinion of the *apis dorsata* species from the Holy Land, accounts of which have been very flattering. There was another species of bee said to be even better than this, which a European friend of his had written to him about, and he trusted to be able to say more about it shortly. Canada, he said was the finest country in the world for raising bees, and he was confident that twenty per cent. could easily be made by entering into the business with a will. Judging from the comparative success with which bees were wintered this year, in view of its being such a severe one, it was fair to infer that any sort of bees could be successfully raised in Canada. The great hinderance to the successful raising of bees was the fact that the majority of people imagine that all they have to do is to set the hive out on a stand and leave the rest to the bees. This is a mistake. Bees, like every animal which is kept for the benefit of man, must be similarly provided and cared for, or they will never prove successful. People should inform themselves on the subject before they go into the business, and then theory must be conjoined with practice.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary, Mr. McKnight, of Owen Sound, stated that a few weeks ago he had sent to the members a form of entry for the Exhibition, together with a printed circular for the purpose of ascertaining what progress had been made in bee culture by the members. Twenty-seven members had reported, and from them he had gathered the following:—Last fall they put into winter quarters 1,534 colonies, or an average of 56 colonies each. Of these there were 1,264 taken out alive in the spring; 216 were lost by spring dwindling, leaving an aggregate working force of 905 colonies, or an average of 37 per member. At the time of reporting these 905 were increased to 1,993, or an average of 74 stocks per member, as against 37 in the spring. This showed that notwithstanding the unusual mortality among bees last winter there are now in the hands of these 27 members twenty per cent. more bees than at the corresponding time last fall. The honey taken by the members who reported, amounted on an aggregate to 73,790, pounds or an average of 81½ pounds for each stock held at the opening of the honey season. Over three-fourths of the amount was taken by the extractor.

The report being found satisfactory, it was moved by Mr. S. Webster, and seconded by Mr. Dougall, that it be adopted and that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Secretary for the satisfactory manner in which he had transacted the business of the Association during the year. Adopted.

The meeting then discussed the following subjects:—

WINTERING.

Several of the members related their experience in wintering bees. Mr. Hall, of Woodstock, stated that he commenced on the 15th September and wintered until 15th April. There was a cellar under the bee house, which was built with walls

16 inches thick, packed with sawdust. When he put them out he had no dwindling; last year he had lost two out of 137 stocks.

Mr. Jones, the President, stated that there was no surer way of killing bees than by disturbing them in the fall. He had lost \$1,000 worth of queens in that way. He always tried to get as many young ones in the fall as possible.

In reply to a question, Mr. Jones stated that when bee-keepers were troubled with mice, they should use arsenic, granulated white sugar, and flour in equal parts.

Mr. Wallace, of Brighton, who had put in 32 last fall, had taken them all out. He had lost none by robbing and none by dwindling. He had increased his by 67. He kept the temperature at 38 to 42 degrees.

Mr. J. T. Beech, of Burnt River P. O., near Lindsay, stated that his mode of wintering differed from those who had given their experiences. He had commenced with one form and now he had 40. The President had said that if he disturbed bees in the fall it was not good for them. He, Mr. Beech, had disturbed his in December and some of which he had put out of doors were in better condition in the spring than those he had placed in the cellar. There were dead bees found in the hives left in the and he did not pay much attention to the hives there. The cellar was well ventilated, for his family used it for ordinary purposes. They kept potatoes beside the hives, and the bees kept beside the potatoes, and kept well.

THE BEST METHOD OF TAKING HONEY.

Several of the members related their experience of the *modus operandi* of "taking honey." The President said that he had had enough experience as to the best means of getting honey. He found that extracted honey paid him the best, and he "took" it almost exclusively. Mr. Aimer, he said, had told him that he shut off the "queens" to a number of frames, which depended upon the size of the colony, and out of the cones behind the sections he took the honey. He would advise all the members to take both extracted and comb honey. In taking it they might shut off a "queen" on each side and place the section in the middle.

HONORARY MEMBERS ELECTED.

It was moved by Mr. G. R. McKnight, that the following gentlemen be elected honorary members of the Association:—The Mayor of Toronto; Mr. John J. Withrow, President of the Industrial Exhibition Association; Mr. James Mills, President of the Guelph Agricultural College; Professor Brown, Guelph, and any other gentlemen the Executive Committee may wish to elect. Carried.

A lady sent two cakes to the convention, one sponge and the other ginger both of these had been sweetened with honey. The cakes were cut up, were passed to the members present, who discussed the merits of the cakes, which it might be said were uncommonly good. It was stated that a cake sweetened with honey was better to keep than one sweetened with sugar, as the honey would keep it moist. The chairman stated that if ladies would use honey in making cakes they might do their baking in the winter time when it was cool, and have fresh cakes all through the summer. It was resolved by the Association, that among the many uses of honey, its value as a sweetening in the process of cookery is one of the most important, especially in view of the adulteration practised upon almost all grades of sugar, and this meeting takes the opportunity afforded by the presentation of the excellent cakes to call the attention of the public to the great superiority of honey to sugar in all cases in which an absolutely pure sweet is desired.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows:—Hon. Lewis, Wallaceburg, President; J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Vice-President; J. R. McKnight, Owen Sound, Secretary-Treasurer. A full Committee was also elected.

Wintering Bees.

Now is the time to prepare colonies for safe wintering. First see that each colony has a prolific queen, and if it has not already enough honey, be sure that the colony has enough bees to fill up for winter as soon as the fall bloom comes. Each comb should have at least one hole through it, for a winter passage for the bees to pass from one comb to another, without passing round the frame. I have examined many colonies of bees that have been wintered in a careless way, that were not provided with passages and have been starved with plenty of honey on the other side of the comb. I feel certain that if they had had a passage through

the comb they would have survived the winter. If any colonies fail to gather enough honey for winter, in the fall, unite all such together, for you can make one good colony out of two or three poor ones, and I often find colonies thus treated the very best in the spring.

This is my plan for preparing bees for winter, and it works like a charm. After the fall season is over for surplus, I take a blanket made the size of the hive on top, and long enough to reach down to the bottom of the frames. Smoke the colony, take on the surplus arrangements, contract the colony to the proper size, put in the division boards, fill the empty space with dry chaff or any dry absorbent that may be handy, such as rags, fine hay, or straw; place the blanket on top of the frames, then drop the end of the blanket down back of the frames, tuck the edges in nicely, close up the hive and all the top or upper story with an absorbent; cover the hive to keep perfectly dry. I bore a ½ inch hole in the front of the hive, about ¾ of the way up from the entrance, front the hive to the south, and all is ready.

I have wintered my bees with success for at least 15 years, and I know whereof I speak. People are depending too much on chaff packing outside of the hive; they must have at least one end of the frames to run to the hive without packing, and the ends should be the front, and the hive must front the south. Last fall I had 135 colonies and my loss in wintering was 6 colonies, 2 of which became queenless, 2 were destroyed by mice, and starved, and one died with dysentery. This has been a very good season for honey. My bees have had no rest since the fruit bloom; there has been a constant flow of honey.—L. J. Diehl, in Am. Bee Journal.

Miscellaneous.

ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF HORSES.—The Boston Advertiser says that there is a sharp demand for good horses at an advance of from 15 to 30 per cent. on the values current the past two years. In fact at no time within twenty years has there been no noticeable a scarcity of thoroughly sound stock. The horse car companies that three years ago were supplying their wants at from \$80 to \$100, are now forced to bid up to \$130 for animals counterparts of 1879 purchases. Truckmen were last autumn buying heavy draught teams at \$350 to \$400, are now compelled to pay \$425 to \$550 for duplicates to these pairs. The most persistent demand is for dark-colored, well-bred carriage horses, in closely matched pairs, each horse weighing about twelve or thirteen hundred pounds. Such a well-broken and stylish team, though not fleet, will secure from \$600 to \$1,000, the price advancing from the lower range upon their freedom from blemish and their evenness in speeding.

A large lumber business is being carried on by parties in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. Messrs E. D. Davinson & Son's two mills will cut during the season 15,000,000 feet of lumber; Dufus & Co.'s mill at Summerside will cut 6,000,000 ft.; C. H. Chase expects to cut 2,500,000; Alex. Nelson will cut 1,000,000 ft.; Jas. A. Curll expects also to cut 1,000,000 ft., a total of 25,000,000 feet lumber, a gain of about 8 per cent. This gives employment to 700 men, and supports 3,000 people. This is good for the county of Lunenburg. And all the branches of industry in a country tend to supply to the farmer a home market. Mechanics as well as other workmen must have their supply from the farmer.

When fattening an animal for beef let the process be as quick as possible. Any stint in feeding will make the meat tough and dry. Stall fed animals will fatten more readily than others, and young animals require richer food than older ones. In winter fattening depends much upon the temperature of the stable. The warmer the cattle are kept of course the less food they require.

Poor shelter, care, feed and drink, will in a few generations make scrubs of the finest thoroughbred stock. Thoroughbred scrubs are but little better than native scrubs; and the farmer who raises either will continually be poor. Breeding the best stock, and keeping in the best manner always pays best.

A writer in the American Farmer has tried the following, worked well into the sod under pear trees to prevent blight, and, so far as tried, with satisfactory results: One quart slaked lime, one quart salt, one quart bone phosphate, and one ounce of sulphur for each tree.