

of the other one and give them a good smoking. Do your uniting about sundown or between sundown and dark. I destroy the poorest Queen. If I have no choice, I let them take their chances. (b) If you want strong colonies.

JAS. ARMSTRONG.

Brant Bee-Keepers' Convention Held May 15th, 1897.

The president, J. Shaver, Cainsville, in the chair. Amongst those present were T. F. Davis, Cainsville; Chris. Edmonson, A Taylor, Paris; R. L. Paterson, Lynden; Chas. Kelly, Cathcart.

It was decided to give \$10 towards the honey prize list of the Southern Fair, half to be given by the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., on condition that the prize list be left the same as last year.

It was decided to again affiliate with the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association.

Mr. Holtermann gave a report on wintering, stating that from experiments conducted two years, he was sure that artificial heat and a constant supply of pure honey at a proper temperature, would be recognized as important factors towards successful wintering. It was important to have all conditions just right, owing to a slight change of conditions, wintering had been less perfect during 1896/97.

After discussion it was moved by J. F. Davis, seconded by R. L. Patterson and resolved that in view of the fact that the Government is about to make an effort to place Canadian Agricultural products on the British market, the government be asked to seek to make an opening for Canadian honey, and that a copy of this resolution be sent by the secretary to the Hon. Sydney E. Fisher, the Hon. Wm. Paterson, and Prof. Robertson at Ottawa.

The following paper was then read:

Brantford, May 15, '97.

Brant Bee-keepers' Association.

Dear Sir.—Pressure of business and rush orders for supplies denies me the pleasure of profit of meeting with you this afternoon to hear and share in your discussion. I have assigned to me the subject of "Preparing for the honey flow." It is a very important one, we might indeed consider it just now as being the most important. I wish I could do it justice, but I will only attempt to open up the subject for more mature and deliberate thought. The weather and prospects generally in our

vicinity have been highly encouraging and promises well if our colonies are in a condition to take advantage of what the season provides.

Strong healthy colonies are what we should aim at, and you will agree with me that successful wintering, whether indoor or outdoor, is a long step towards this attainment. If indoor I believe it is well to have them out as early in the spring as possible, taking care of course to protect them from the uncertainties of the latter March and early April. Good warm top coverings are indispensable. Here we find that our empty comb honey supers come in very useful, placing one on each hive, and within it a well-filled chaff cushion and a liberal supply of old newspapers.

When weather permits scrape and clean off the bottom boards. Look out for their stores. Many a colony has come through the winter all right to die in the spring from starvation, beside if breeding is to be carried on they must not be limited. Very much can be said in favor of a little stimulating feeding, even when they have sufficient stores, it encourages them to greater effort in brood rearing. You will have noticed Mr. N. D. West's excellent article in the C. B. J. on the wholesale system of feeding sometimes practiced by him. It is certainly a very quick and easy method of distributing—viz. that of pouring sugar syrup over some straw in a wash tub. I like the old plan of adding full combs of honey when they are to be had and much feed is wanted. This can be done quickly and without any provocation to robbing.

There may be an advantage however to the colonies in their exertion and excitement carrying the sweets from a source outside their hives.

As the season advances judicious spreading of the brood may be practiced with good results. Of course it is attended with more or less risk in case of a cold snap, but by attending to contracting the entrance, and not being in too great a hurry to throw off the chaff cushion the danger is lessened. Let the queen have all she can do in the stronger colonies by giving empty combs and using some of her brood to build up the weaker.

What I have above noted are just a few of the important things well to be observed in aiming to build up for the flows. Hoping that they may serve to lead to further discussion of the topic.

W. J. CRAIG.

An interesting discussion followed, after which the meeting adjourned.