



APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, R. McKnight, Owen Sound. 1st Vice-Pres., Dr. Shaver, Stratford. 2nd Vice-Pres., W. C. Wells, Philadelphia. Sec'y, Louis R. F. Holtermann, Fisherville.

Executive Committee—Dr. Duncan Embury, J. B. Hall, Woodstock; D. A. Jones, Beeton; D. Chalmers, Muskegung; Dr. Thomas, St. Thomas; M. Ramier, Cedar Grove; and N. B. Colcock, Welland.

The Northwestern Bee-Keepers' Convention will meet at Chicago, Ill., on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 17 and 18, 1882. The office of the *American Bee Journal* has been kindly tendered as a place of meeting. A cordial invitation is extended to all bee-keepers, and especially those of the Northwestern States to be present. The meeting takes place during the last week of the Inter-State Industrial Exposition, to enable all to obtain reduced railroad rates. First session at 10 a.m.

C. C. MILLER, Sec'y.
C. C. ANDERSON, Sec'y.

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, will meet at Hagerstown, in the room of the County Commissioners, at the Court House, on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1882, at 1 o'clock, p.m., the session to last two days. The Washington County Fair will then be in progress, which will give persons an opportunity to attend the exhibition. All persons intending to go will please drop me a card, so that I may secure for them half-fare rates.

J. LUTHER BOWERS, Sec'y.

Berryville, Va.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THANKS.—Mr. D. A. Jones, Beeton; and Mr. R. F. Holtermann, Fisherville, will please accept our thanks and that of our "better half" for fine samples of their honey.

At the price we furnish the CANADIAN FARMER to bee-keepers we cannot give the chromos of Niagara Falls. If you wish that fine picture, send 15 cents extra, and we will mail it to you.

THE labels on the honey cans on exhibition are exceedingly fine specimens of workmanship. They were gotten up by a Toronto firm, from design by Mr. Jones, and reflect much credit on both parties.

THE balance of the Bee-Keepers' Convention will appear next week and the prize essay probably the week after. Do not miss your papers, but remit to the Secretary at once, then we will not have to take your name off the list.

MR. J. G. WALLACE, Brighton, showed us a handsome three story cake made from the receipt he kindly permitted us to publish last year. This cake had "age," being some nine months old, and was keeping well. He also had some pears preserved in honey. They looked beautiful.

THE CANADIAN FARMER will be sent

again during the coming year to all members of the Bee-Keepers' Association. Those who do not wish to have their paper and membership discontinued should remit their dollar at once to Mr. R. F. Holtermann, Fisherville, the new Secretary-Treasurer elect.

THE CANADIAN FARMER PRIZE ESSAY ON "WINTERING BEES."

Some time since we published a notice offering a prize of \$10 for the best essay on "Wintering Bees in Canada." Several were sent in, and at the late meeting of the Association in Toronto the committee appointed examined several essays, and as will be seen No. 4, which proved to be that of Mr. H. Couse, Beeton, which will be published in a future issue. Regarding the essay we do not think it went sufficiently into details, but as far as it goes it shows evident care in preparing, and that the writer is a practical man.

Below is the report of the committee.

REPORT.

We the undersigned examining committee upon the CANADIAN FARMER Prize Essay, beg leave to report that our opinion none of the papers submitted are perfect in their details, but still award the prize to No. 4, as being the best of the essays examined by us.

D. A. JONES,	N. B. COLCOCK,
W. C. WELLS,	C. W. POST,
DR. SHAVER,	D. CHALMERS,
R. F. HOLTERMANN,	M. RAMIER,
R. MCKNIGHT,	

Toronto, Agricultural and Arts Association Rooms, Sept. 11th, 1882.

BEE-KEEPERS' ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Instructive Lessons.

Toronto, Sept. 13. The first session of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association was not held in the City Hall here as intended, owing to some misunderstanding in having prior arrangements made. Consequently a large room was engaged in the St. Lawrence Coffee House which shortly after the appointed hour was crowded with bee-men from all parts of the Province.

The Hon. Louis Wallbridge, President, in the chair.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary, Mr. R. McKnight, at the request of the President read the following report:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have to report an increase in the membership of our Association of nearly one hundred per cent. over that of last year. We have now on the membership roll 116 names as against 63 in 1881. This increase was mainly secured by the offer to supply each member with a free copy of the CANADIAN FARMER for a year.

The summer of 1882 will be remembered by bee-keepers as one of the poorest honey seasons within their recollection. From the reports received, I find that the yield this year compared with last is in the proportion of 15 to 81. This, however, is but an imperfect estimate of the state of the honey industry. It is impossible for me to present a complete statement of the work of the Association in this respect as only 53 out of 116 members reported. These 53 members put into winter quarters last fall 2301 stocks, and in spring they took out 2136 alive. Of these 165 were lost by spring dwindling and 15 by other causes, leaving in their hands a working force of 2197 stocks. When the honey season opened, the aggregate surplus taken from these up to the time of reporting was 35,006 pounds, or an average of about 15 per stock as against 81 last year. The number of stocks now held by these 53 members is 3063, or an average of 56 each.

Respectfully submitted,

R. MCKNIGHT, Secretary.

THE TREASURER'S

report showed a balance of \$27.25 on hand after all expenses and liabilities had been paid. This was a great improvement on last year, the report then showing only \$7.65 on hand.

INCORPORATION.

Mr. McKnight stated that conjointly with the President he had taken steps towards getting the Association incorporated, which was pursuant to resolution of the last annual meeting. The Government had led them to believe that while recognizing the importance of the Honey Industry, yet as the Association was in its infancy, it would be as well to allow the matter to

stand till the Association had opened a more thorough field of usefulness. They further held out every encouragement that next year an amount would be placed in the estimates to assist the funds of the Society. The incorporation could, however, have been obtained forthwith, but the committee thought it would be better not to accept it unless it carried with it a grant.

Hon. L. WALLBRIDGE in his address said with Mr. McKnight he had applied to the Government for incorporation and a grant. The former could have been obtained, but the Government would not give the grant, at least this year. As for himself, he failed to see the use of incorporation without a grant. The association did not calculate on holding any lands, nor on suing or being sued. We were unlike entomological, horticultural and such kindred societies; ours was not entirely for the public benefit, but out own. We, for one, calculated on making money out of bees; most bee-keepers do. We met here to exchange views to further our own interests. We had, therefore, no direct claim on the government. He had worked hard for it, however, in accordance with the wish of the Association; but like Mr. McKnight he did not think it in the interests of the Association to take incorporation unless it carried with it an annual money grant. He believed Canada was one of the

BEST HONEY PRODUCING COUNTRIES on the face of the earth. Then, why did not our farmers go into bee culture more? There was money in it, and lots of it, too. The more honey was produced; the less sugar would be imported, consequently more money would be kept in this country. Any farmer could, if he wished, produce honey enough off his farm to keep him in sweets all the year round. Honey was one of the finest sugar-making matters for canning purposes, in fact sweetening of all kinds. What he had read about bee-keeping he had seen from reading. He took great pleasure in bee-keeping. Some had told him that he was a religion of it. This he would not deny. Nothing that he knew of our kind of humanity pointed as distinctly to the God that made them than these intelligent little workers. Look for one moment to them working out the Lord's Prayer, as they had done in Mr. Jones' Apiary—watch their every move,—the interest they have in their colony, their almost real intelligence displayed in their internal management. They were mathematicians of the highest order; what can be truer than their workmanship. Around the hive they seem to know me, to make friends with me, and I treat them as such. He regretted the past year had been a

VERY POOR SEASON.

Old and practical bee-keepers of 40 years' standing say that honey has not existed in the flowers—there seemed to be a perfect barrenness of pollen. He had heard of some bees actually dying from starvation. The great honey producers—clover, basswood and later on in the season buckwheat—were very scarce this season. With regard to the kind of bees in Canada, he considered none need send to the United States for bees, we having some of the finest bees in the world. Our Italian bees are good, and purer, he considered, than those of the United States. However, if persons did not want to get them from the United States, recollect that he had proceeded in getting the Dominion Government to take off the duty on bees (Burr, here), to keep bees pure they must be isolated, at least three miles and over water is best. This Mr. Jones has got. In his islands on the Georgian Bay are his repositories. There he can, without any fear of mixing whatever, keep his Italian, Cyprian, Syrian and other bees entirely separate. With his agents abroad, he selects the very finest varieties, and can thus

BEAT THE WORLD

for thoroughbred bees. He considered the crossbred bees the best. It showed they had more ambition to defend their stores—more energy—more enthusiasm if he might be permitted to call it such. He favored bees that would sting, though the little cascals did not favor him (laughter); they would sting and he mistake about it. He could speak from experience (laughter). But it was from these cross bees, he got his surplus honey. Besides being cross, they are very early workers. Early bees make the honey. He had had queens as tame as houseflies and they hardly ever had any surplus honey. They were too indolent. We have the bees, but we have not got the man to handle them. That is where the trouble is. He considered Mr. Jones the

BEST BEE-MAN IN AMERICA.

if not in the world. He has thrown his whole energy into it, his money and his enthusiasm. His apiary is very extensive, and the complete isolation of his islands gives him untold advantages in breeding pure. Mr. Post, of Balahand, in his (the speaker's) vicinity was starting to breed on isolated islands, but he gets his bees from Mr. Jones, the fountain head, and at a figure he considered no price at all. He would give his method of

WINTERING BEES.

He had been experimenting for the past seven or eight years, and had at last found—to him—a safe way, so much so that for the past two winters he had lost none, the last winter having 24 hives. His cellar was damp, having a stream of water running through the bottom which was rock. The hives used were the Langstroth. He did not interfere with the body of the hive except to place the comb in the centre. [He con-

cluded his attention altogether to box honey. He took off the top down to the comb frame, then placed two small sticks, one-half inch thick across the top of the hive. Then he placed over that, his bee quilt made by taking coarse linen such as comes around bales of goods. Cut two pieces an inch or two wider than the hive, lay in one two thick pieces of cotton batting, placing the other piece of linen on the top, sew the edges and thus form a cushion. This he called his bee quilt. He then gave lots of bottom ventilation as much as they have in summer. Cook's book is very defective on this point—it omits bottom ventilation, and this they must have it keeps them dry. The temperature he kept at from 40° to 41°. It went as low as 39°, and as high as 46°. He did not lose a bee, except those that died of old age. He had not even to clean off the bottom board, and he attributed all to bottom ventilation. They had no fly during the winter, and were set out in April. He thought the moisture that would have gathered inside the hive escaped by permeating through the cushion, drying on the top of it. He could sum up the whole secret of wintering bees by impressing this on bee-keepers, "Keep in the heat and let out the moisture."

Mr. Jones said he labored hard to avoid moisture. He believed the Washby President was correct. Bee-keepers should keep these three all important points before them.

- 1st. Have lots of stores.
- 2nd. Lots of young bees.
- 3rd. Keep in the heat and let out the moisture.

He was entirely in accord with bottom ventilation, not only on account of the moisture but to give an opportunity for poisonous gases to escape. He graphically illustrated having found so much poisonous gas (carbonic acid gas) in his bee house once that it put his lamp out when going in to see the cause of his bees roaring. He found the gas six inches deep. Covering his box ventilation for a few minutes, the gas escaped, running down the drain, and the bees soon got quiet.

Mr. WELLS favored bottom ventilation. He used instead of the cushion described by the President, kiln dried saw-dust in a little frame between two pieces of gano. He had no creek in his cellar; but he had four or five rods of tile drain leading to the bottom of his cellar that allowed the gas, &c., to pass off. There was considerable carbonic acid gas generated where bees were kept, and this being heavy went to the bottom and required an outlet.

Dr. SHAVER, of Stratford, said either saw-dust or oat chaff he considered best for top ventilation, and that the cushion should be composed of nearly six inches. He, like the President, placed his hives in tiers, one above the other separated by strips of wood. He believed carbonic acid gas did generate in the cellars. His system of carrying this off was by a ventilator at the bottom of his chimney that came down to the floor of the cellar. He at intervals opened the doors or windows for a few seconds to change the air. He believed the chaff hive the best to winter in out of doors with cushions on top. In cellars they should be two or three feet from the floor. He let out about the 1st May if earlier than that he found the queens lay too soon, cold nights follow, and spring dwindling was the consequence. However, no fixed date could be announced; but bee-keepers must be governed by circumstances.

D. CHALMERS, of Muskegung, endorsed the statement of Dr. Shaver, and expressed himself as fully satisfied bees want a ventilation.

Mr. JONES said by actual weight of his hives in and out of his cellar he found each hive consumed about five or six pounds of honey per colony. This was the average out of 100 hives. Some only took three pounds, others nine or ten. As to the time the bees should be taken out of the cellar, he agreed with Dr. Shaver there was no special time set as to date, the bee-keepers should watch for the first pollen visible. He always let them out when there was pollen on soft maples. If mornings were cold, he favored shutting them in till it got warmer, thus preventing them from dying.

THOS. FORBES, of Brockville, thoroughly believed in ventilation. The bees consume considerable oxygen, throwing off carbonic acid gas, and that unless taken away was very injurious.

C. R. TRINCH, Newmarket, had wintered two winters on the summer stands with marked success. He packed in saw-dust, using Mr. Jones' hives. He always looked out for lots of stores, plenty of young bees, and good top and bottom ventilation. He had four inches dry saw-dust on the sides and six inches on the top. They came out with a clean hive and no dead. He left the saw-dust in all the year round, for he believed it kept the extreme heat out as well as the cold. Several of his neighbors did likewise. One net labor used chaff; it got mouldy and hard. It may do for the sides, but certainly not for the top.

Mr. McKNIGHT said success attended a variety of different methods of wintering, so that it was hard to decide as to the best mode. He had tried outdoor, cellar and bee-house for the last two years. All had done well, so he had come to the conclusion it was not so much the receptacle as the carrying out of the three essential rules as given by Mr. Jones. He preferred ground corkwood as packing rather than saw-dust or chaff. The corkwood can be procured from grocers, as it comes with dried fruit boxes. It does not want an absorbent on top, simply a transmitter.