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BRANTFORD, ONT., JANUARY, 1904.

WHOLE No
467

ANNUAL MEETING OF ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association held its 24th Annual Meeting in the Town Hall in the Town of Trenton, on December 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1903.

The Secretary read the minutes of the 23rd Annual Meeting, held at Barrie, which, on motion of Mr. Dickenson, seconded by Mr. Gemmell, were confirmed and signed by the President.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By W. A. CHRYSLER, CHATHAM.

I am very much pleased to greet many of our old and new members that have assembled here this afternoon.

It might be well to remind ourselves that we are one year older than when we last met.

"Time rolls its ceaseless course"

The remembrances of past years picture varying degrees in the beekeepers enthusiasm.

While we have had in times past, good crops and fair prices, there have been others when large quantities of honey never reached a profitable market.

While some parts of the province have not been fortunate in obtaining good crop this season there is a

surplus in others that is causing some anxiety on the part of the holders.

The same old subjects that we have been discussing in our past meetings are no doubt instructive to all of us in obtaining perfection in our pursuit but I hope you will not allow them to become the all absorbing subjects for debate.

Let us not lose sight of the most vital subject at present conducive to the greatest success and profitability of our industry; which is the marketing and disposing of our honey in our own and distant markets.

The Honey Exchange Committee will present their report of their work during the past year enumerating their difficulties and recommendations, and I sincerely hope you one and all will give your undivided interest and express your views that something may result that will be the means of perfecting the plans already begun for the handling of all the honey that we, as beekeepers can produce.

When such a condition presents itself there will be such an expansion in the production and exportation that will be as startling as has been in many of our other Agricultural products.

Let us also profit if it is at all possible by our Foreign Exhibitions of honey held in so many parts of the civilized world during the past few years in all such exhibitions Canadian honey has taken no second place.

It is therefore our just claim that Canada produces honey second to none in the whole wide world.

The executive committee have made arrangements to collect an excellent exhibit of honey from our members to be displayed conjointly with that of our Dominion Government exhibit of honey in St. Louis in 1904.

According to the Ontario Government statistics we have in Ontario this year 207,936 colonies of bees, being an increase over 1902 of about 5,400 colonies.

The Inspector of Apiaries has, as far as I have been able to learn, attended to every call made for his services.

The applications I have received for the Inspector's services, I am sorry to say, all been late in the season for him to map out his work to have it performed in the least time and expense. Although fast disappearing, I would urge every beekeeper to give his best efforts to rid the province of Foul Brood, and also to observe the law on the subject, especially that of Sec. 10 of the Foul Brood Act which says:—"Every beekeeper or other person who is aware of the existence of Foul Brood either in his own apiary or elsewhere shall immediately notify the President of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association of the existence of such disease, and in default of so doing, shall on summary conviction before a Justice of the Peace be liable to a fine of five dollars and costs."

I think by a strict observance of the above that Foul Brood in the province will very soon be a thing of the past.

I hope you, one and all, will assist to make this one of the most interesting, pleasant and profitable meetings. As many have come to this meeting from a distance and at no small

expense, it is very important that we employ every moment in useful and profitable discussion. As your president I shall endeavor to judge without partiality upon every subject submitted for consideration, and that I may confidently rely on the members in supporting the dignity of the chair and maintaining the decorum and orderly demeanor of our meeting.

"THE ADVANTAGES OF OUT-APIARIES—HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO MOVE THEM"

By MR. B. O. LOTT, OF ANSON.

In selecting this subject from among the many which we might profitably discuss at this meeting, I made this choice believing, that generally speaking the majority of beekeepers have had little experience with out-apiaries.

I shall reverse the order of the subject and say first ascertain if near your home apiary—I use the word near, for I consider it very important for spring up-building—You have a good supply of willow, soft maple, alder, poplar, hard maple, honey suckle, moose wood, wild plum, bill berries, and other spring flowers. If so there will be no necessity to move early in the spring. If not so fortunately situated, then select a locality, along the lines I have mentioned where there are also plenty of orchards and if possible, raspberries, clover and basswood.

HOW TO PREPARE TO MOVE.

First a hive for moving should not have iron or tin straps, for the top bars to rest upon, but should rest upon wood, as the bees will propolize more quickly to wood than iron. Next it will be necessary to have screens for the tops of the hives, these are made of inch and a quarter strips, dove tailed at the ends, made exactly to the size of the hive with

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wire cloth for covering, these can be fastened by small wire nails to the top of the hive, then fasten your bottom board with whatever fastening you may have. I prefer the Vandeußen clamps, put on your entrance screens, and they are ready to move. I might also add here, the reason we prefer the clamps; moving in July or August, you can remove the bottom board and with a screen same as on top with a screw nail in each side place screen beneath the hive with the wirecloth next to the hive, fasten down your clamps and they have ventilation top and bottom.

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In the old settled part such as Prince Edward, and the southern parts of Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland and Durham, Linden is something of the past while the northern parts of the same counties Linden or Basswood as it is commonly called is quite plentiful. Following out the plans which I have already mapped out with several railroads running south to north with good wagon roads if it is a simple matter to move an apiary fifty or sixty miles without any loss whatever. We have learned also by experience that in placing the hives in car for shipment always place them so that the racks hang lengthways instead of crossways, whereas shipping by waggons the reverse position is necessary.

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With us bee-keepers in Hastings we ship our bees north for Linden and Clover, south to the county of Prince Edward for Buckwheat, and back home for winter quarters: by following this course we usually get a fair crop of clover, linden and buckwheat honey. Time will not permit to go into all details of moving but I trust enough has been shown to clear the way for any new or old bee-keeper situated in a locality where

there is not an abundance of clover, basswood and buckwheat and other honey producing plants.

At the close of his paper Mr. Lott explained that owing to a enforced absence from home of nearly four weeks he had not had an opportunity to devote as much time to the subject as he would have wished but he trusted the paper he had prepared would be of some interest to some who had had no, or perhaps very little experience with out apiaries.

Mr. Holmes: Mr. President and Gentlemen: Not having had the advantage of knowing the subject matter contained in the very excellent paper given by our friend Lott I am placed at a disadvantage. However, in the course of the paper there were some suggestions that came to my mind; and I shall take the opportunity of telling you that owing to the fact that I have not conducted out apiaries my suggestions will be of a theoretical nature and not practical from my stand point. I was wishing that he had referred to the advantages which might accrue from local rains in having apiaries scattered over a radius of perhaps ten, fifteen or twenty miles, perhaps in one locality the honey flora might be badly scorched and just a few miles farther on the advantage of showers would give the bee-keeper in that locality a special advantage. Another matter upon which I am sorry he did not inform us was that of store rooms at different places. If I were engaged in it I would wish to have the store rooms at the different places so that the honey would not have to be removed. Another matter I was sorry he did not refer to was as to whether he used the same set of extracting utensils in connection with his work or a separate and distinct set for each out yard. I think these points might be referred

to. I do not bring these points up as differing from my friend.

Mr. Lott: I do not know that I could answer the question of my friend Holmes satisfactorily regarding the influence of rains in the different localities. As to the utensils which we use in out-apiaries, we usually move the whole apiary so that in taking one or two car loads to different localities we usually take our extractor and other appliances with us. I am here and will be pleased to answer any questions which I possibly can so far as my experience goes from a practical stand point.

Mr. Dickenson: In a case of a man having an apiary with one hundred or one hundred and fifty colonies all ready with the frames resting on tin supports, what would you do in moving them?

Mr. Lott: Do as I did, remove the tin and replace it with wood. I started out with tin rests for top bars and in shipping either upon train or wagon we found that the bees would not propolize the rack to the iron and consequently we used to have to nail strips across the racks in order to hold them. We found also that after discarding the iron rests and letting the frames rest upon wood it is not necessary to strap them down; the bees would propolize them in such a way that we rarely ever found a rack misplaced or moved. If I anticipated moving my bees to other localities I think I would, for the little amount of labor connected with it, remove the iron rests and if then you have not the proper bee space below, put your strips under your top bars at the end of the rack.

Mr. Hall: Does the handling of those frames without the tin rests that you have removed compensate for removing them?

Mr. Lott: I admit it is not as easy

to handle frames resting upon wood as upon the iron bars but speaking from experience in moving and shipping bees I think you will be well repaid for the amount of extra labor by the saving to your combs and the death rate of the bees. We used to lose a great many bees in shipping but after we discarded the iron rests the loss by death was very small.

Mr. Post: That was when you handled them on the wagons?

Mr. Lott: Yes.

Mr. Post: All but about 150 of mine have metal rabbets and I cannot see one particle of difference. Our top stories have all metal rabbets and they are moved in August with the top stories on. If we moved them on wagons I think they would get out of place, but they are carried on hand barrows to the car and I never saw one shifted. If I were to build five hundred to-morrow I would have every one with metal rabbets.

Mr. Hall: I have had a little experience in moving bees to out-apiaries and returning them and my hives and supers all have metal rabbets and the difference in handling those bees, when you come to the honey crop, is so great that it pays you. Some of them get together but not many. Most of them have little "brace combs" I move mine with top stories on when I move them to the buckwheat otherwise they would smother. I think I would not take our friend's advice about taking off the metal rabbets. If I had to do that I would put a block of wood between the metal rabbet and the end of the hive.

Mr. Holtermann: In this question of out-apiaries I believe I can help our friend Lott out whom I know is a practical man. What he says is perfectly correct. If you put the metal rabbets there and you have your bee space above the frames there

more or less danger of those bees shaking loose. Of course as Mr. Post says if you are moving them on trains that is less the case but there are not very many of us who can afford to do that. If you leave your metal rabbit there and put your bee space below instead of above you remedy the whole matter. The moment you put your queen excluder on the excluder frame has practically pinched down the end bar and if you put your cover on that pinches down the queen excluder and thus you prevent them rocking.

Mr. McEvoy: If our friend had to ship one hundred colonies two hundred miles would it pay to move them or leave them?

Mr. Lott: I am situated in a locality where there is clover and very little basswood. If I kept my bees there and it was a good clover season I would get perhaps a good crop of clover honey but if I did not move them where there was basswood I certainly would get but very little. I am in a poor buckwheat locality but by shipping fifty or sixty miles to Prince Edward where there are thousands of acres of buckwheat within a radius of five or six miles we usually get a good crop.

Generally speaking railways charge outrageous rates for bees or fixtures but we are more fortunate here, particularly with the Central Ontario Railway which runs eighty-five miles north, through a well wooded country to Picton, and through nearly the whole of Prince Edward which is noted for its buckwheat. We can ship to advantage and we get very reasonable rates. I think it would pay any man who is in a locality where Linden, buckwheat or clover is scarce, to ship his bees fifty, sixty or one hundred miles.

Mr. McEvoy: Would it pay to ship them, providing it cost 50c. a colony?

Mr. Lott: If there is a scarcity of nectar and no flow of honey perhaps it would not pay, but generally speaking it does pay us well. If My friend Post left his bees in Trenton where he lives he would get a couple of tons of honey. When he ships them out back of my place it is quite a common thing for him to get ten tons of honey.

Mr. Post: Mr. McEvoy is interested in the difference in profits in moving them. It is all chance. We could not answer that positively. We do not move our bees anything like two hundred miles. We might take our bees from one locality which was poor to another which we thought was good and there might be some local showers across that that favored spot and the bees would do splendidly, where as five or ten miles beyond they would get hardly anything.

Mr. Armstrong: Wouldn't it do away with all this trouble of taking out the metal rabbits and replacing with a piece of wood underneath, if we used a good self spacing frame.

Mr. Lott: I have had no experience but I would not think it would. The only trouble is with the bees shifting together, killing them and rubbing the brood.

Mr. Holtermann: It will not do if you take a proper self-spacing frame. I say that advisedly. After years of experience with a Hoffman frame I do not believe any man who runs out-apiaries can afford to have them. They stick together and there is a difficulty in getting them apart. A man who is running out-apiaries wants to be a rapid manipulator which he cannot be with a Hoffman frame. If he takes his frame and drives a staple to properly space on one side of the top bar, and then turns the frame over and he has two staples on top bar, they act as self-

spacers but even when the frame is spaced with a staple it will rock.

Mr. McEvoy: Mr. Hall has moved bees and he has got a good deal of honey sometimes and I ask him if it does not pay pretty well.

Mr. Hall: I am too old to move very many bees. If you want to keep your metal rabbet, if you want to move them rapidly, you can manage that by simply putting in a piece of wood under the end of your frame behind your metal rabbet and you can take it out when you get there, if you choose. I do not move on trains because they are exhorbitant. We have to move on wagons and in this way they do not need to be fastened in any shape and if you want to examine your beehives when they are out in the out-apiary you can do so in one sixtieth part of the time by having the metal. With me, with one exception, it has always paid to move to the buck-wheat

Mr. Lott: Mr. Hall may be right, but I am satisfied with our system. I could not agree with my friend Holtermann. In shipping the top stories as we do for extracting, with those staples in your rack I don't know how you would use the capping knife.

Mr. Pettit: Start at the staple and cut down from it.

Mr. Lott: I always cut up.

Mr. Newton: I have something which I think is ahead of fastning the frame. In shipping or moving bees my screen always sets down on the top bar with four screws and they hold them perfectly solid and by taking out the four screws the frames can be moved just as you wish.

Mr. Holterman: What do you do when you set another hive on top of the first.

Mr. Newton: Put a piece of wood between the bottom and top and fast-

en with a clamp or whatever you use and then your screen goes on top.

Mr. Morrison: I think probably the screens I used were after Mr. Newton's pattern, an inch and one quarter square fastened at each side near the end with inch and a quarter screw nails. Three quarters of an inch of that frame rested on the top bar and when they were fastened down tight I found when I had removed them on a lumber wagon there was not a frame moved and they were all on metal rests.

Mr. Hall: Mr. Newton uses the screens I use but when he has one hive on top of the other he cannot use that screen on the bottom hive, and he does not need it there. I dont even use the screw, simply very fine long wire nails and put four of them in. The top cannot move and the bottom does not move. The screen does not touch the side of the hive at all, it rests on the end of the frame:

Mr. Holterman: If you went on the non-swarming principle looking to your bees, they would not propolise.

Mr. Hall: They are not propolised down but there are brace combs which keep them together.

Mr. Morrison: Doesnt the end of your top story press on the frame below?

Mr. Hall: It does not in my case. If I put a screen on the top story on the brood nest it then rests on the screen, as Mr. Newton says. The ends of the screens are deeper than the sides and the ends rest on the end of the bar.

Mr. Morrison: With mine it would. My frame comes plumb with the top of the hive,

Mr. Pettit: Out of over two hundred stocks that I have put away for the winter I do not think I would find three hundred burr combs in the

brood chamber between top bars. This is due to correct spacing of combs. If you have the bee space underneath the combs as Mr. Holtermann has said, you can have the bottom of the super resting on the top bars or queen excluder or covering, as the case may be, and you have your combs held firm.

We hear a great deal about moving bees for better pasture in different places on account of the difference in weather, showers, drought and all these things but I think in the long run we will average up about as well if we stay just where we are.

Mr. Armstrong: I would say that it pays, I have moved bees for the last ten or fifteen years. I have shipped them on the cars and the highest rate I ever paid was \$1.50 a colony and that was from my place to New Brunswick. I do not think it will ever be necessary for any person to move two hundred miles for fresh pasturage. About seventeen miles is as far as I move and I never moved them yet but that it paid and paid well. I do not quite agree with Mr. Holtermann about the frame sticking together. I thought in moving bees we wanted them to stick together. If you have everything arranged alright, with the right space, you will have very little burr combs. You can take out three frames with the self spacing Hoffman frame and you cannot do it with any other frame except by adopting the method which Mr. Hall uses.

Mr. Hall: It has paid me every time I have moved these, with one exception when the Lord did not give us any honey. It cost me fifty cents a hive to get them there and back again.

Mr. Lott: There are years we do not get a surplus of buckwheat honey when we ship south but usually get enough for wintering and we

are amply repaid then. Generally speaking after running for a crop of clover honey, extracting from the first to the tenth of July, then comes the basswood a about the 12th July to 26th or 27th and then shipping from the 1st to 5th August to the buckwheat field, our hives are usually very light and they then are usually filled upwell for winter quarters, if nothing else.

An advantage to anyone who lives along the lakes is that you can ship very reasonably by boat. Also with a local railway you get better rates than upon some of the larger railways. Generally speaking it pays us well to move.

Mr. Byer: There is one important element which Mr. McEvoy I think is forgetting to take into consideration, and that is the element of chance.

Mr. Darling: In regard to keeping frames firm while moving bees, I would put two springs right on each side on the end of the frame and hold them down on the rabbets. My frames hang crosswise of the hives and I have never had a frame get out of place. I hold them down with wire nails or screw nails.

Mr. Pettit: From the general opinions that have been expressed I think the question resolves itself down to whether your space is above or below the frame. Each man who gets up to speak must let it be known whether his space is below or above. If above I would think that mentioned with strips to hold down the frame; if below the top bars come even and are held down by the queen excluder or cover or what ever it is.

Mr. Darling: Even with the space below, I fancy I should put the strip on and then the frames would not slide.

Mr. Edmonson: Do you nail each frame separately?

Mr. Darling : No. Two nails in each strip, four nails in a hive.

Mr. Sibbald : When Mr. Pettit comes to put the third story on from the bottom edge not catch tight to the frame—that is, propolized to the bottom edge of the hive?

Mr. Pettit : If everything is square and even and nice and snug the propolizing does not amount to anything.

Mr. Sibbald : You understand what I mean. If it is a nice snug fit the hive will just rest even on the top of the frame and on the other half, at the end of the hive, it will be stuck to the bottom and when you pry the top off probably two or three of them will lift and drop down again and annoy the bees very much.

Mr. Pettit : turn it side ways and slide it.

Mr. Sibbald : That is alright with your staples but if you hadn't staples there it would slide the whole thing.

Mr. Pettit : I couldn't keep bees without staples.

Mr. Dickenson : Mr. Pettit recommends running the capping knife down. I think Mr. McIntyre is on record in our November Bee Journal as saying "always cut up."

Mr. Hall : We all of us have different methods and all have found out how to rock the cradle and keep the baby quiet, those that have the space below and those that have the space above, and those that have loose and tight frames are alright because they run them to suit their own hives.

Mr. Pettit : That is the point exactly. We all have different things according to our own management. From my experience of years without staples, with frames hanging loose and then using the staples, and spending hours driving staples in frames that have not had them, I would not think of pulling out the staples and going without them again.

Mr. Lowey : I use the metal rabbet and would not have a hive without them. I pick them up when I want to take them away and pick them up when I want to bring them home. I do not perhaps move them enough to want a screen on top. I never have any difficulty. I would say to any one man never use a closed end frame or a frame with any spacing without a metal rabbet.

I have read something about cutting out the queen cells and when I heard about going through the hive I thought I would ask what the object of doing that was, whether it was to prevent swarming.

Mr. Sibbald : I dont think it is very much use cutting out queen cells to prevent swarming:

Mr. Hall : When we take them out for the buckwheat we never go into them for any cause except from the top. We don't take them out for white honey because we have them where the white honey is. We look into them every week and if they are prepared to swarm we divide them up.

Mr. Holtermann : I think the information Mr. Lowey wants refers to the entire season.

Mr. Hall : After July we let them take their fling. If they do go to the woods to bid them good by.

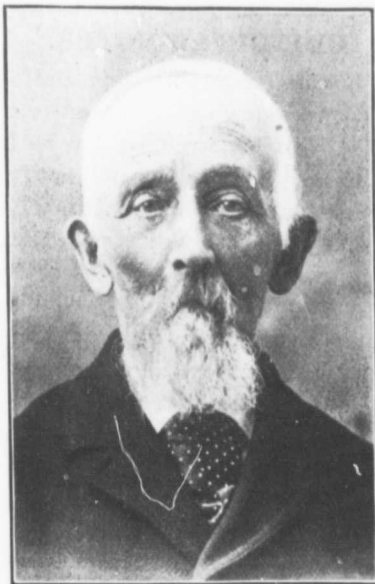
Mr. Holtermann : I would not like to not go through the hives for cells. In this matter localities vary very much. I had for years been trying to follow Mr. Post because I knew he was a good bee-keeper and he said he had no trouble with swarming under certain conditions. I found under those same conditions I did have trouble with swarming and I attribute it in all honesty to locality. I believe the sections where there is least trouble with swarming is where the clover comes and then it breaks. That is there is a dearth between clover and basswood. Then bees

Mr. Samuel Wood.

Nottawa, Ont.

We have pleasure in here presenting to our readers a picture of Canada's oldest bee-keeper, Mr. Samuel Wood of Nottawa, who has just recently passed his eighth-fourth birthday. Mr. Wood has been a familiar figure at the meetings of the Ontario Association, for many years representing District No. 12.

Mr. Wood was born near Hudders-



MR. SAMUEL WOOD, Nottawa.

field, Yorkshire, England, and was a weaver by trade. He came out to the United States in 1854 and ten years later, just at the out break of the Civil War, came to Canada where he bought a bush farm. The speculation was rather an unfortunate one, owing to an unfavorable situation, and he gave it up after a time and resumed his trade. Shortly after, he made his first investment in bees,

(Continued on Page 133)

l r... wood comes on and as a rule we are
e with... not troubled much with swarming;
hen... is short and sharp perhaps and
l pic... then there is a break again. Then
the... you come to the buckwheat. They
ve... have entirely gotten over the swarm-
p... ing impulse and if that does not last
wou... so long you will again not be troub-
a clo... ed if you give them plenty of room.
h an... in the localities in which I work
... more or less that is not the case.
it cu... The nature of the soil is such that
hen... under ordinary circumstances the
hive... clover is carried right along into
re ob... the bass wood and it is a long flow.
it wa... and with that twelve framed hive,
... so much despised by some, which I
it... use, and with two or three supers on,
quee... they will even then get the swarming
imp... pulse and it is necessary to go
thro... ough and examine carefully for
cells... and break them down. I am
not... going to say it pays to do that.
m th... is a great deal of work, more than
at fr... extracting. But, what will you
the... when you are running out-apiar-
e loo... ? Certainly I know I would have
st... quite a few swarms if I had
em... done it. Where breaking down
re in... queen cells specially pays is if you
ers... are pretty near the end of the flow
the... and you break down the queen cells
to th... and check it for those few days, then
... they are brought to the point where
... they will not swarm any more.

Mr. Hall : Mr. Holtermann has
... hit it for my locality; I don't
... break down my cells, that is all.
... Without apiaries where you can only
... once every eight or ten days, we
... through every one and we have
... the records on every hive. My mem-
... ory is short. I can't remember what
... do with each hive. If we break
... down our queen cells or take fifty
... pounds of honey, that all goes onto
... the slate.

Putting the screen under the bot-
... tom will retard swarming, but in no
... case will entirely it prevent it.

(Continued next month.)

THE
CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers.

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BRANTFORD - CANADA.

Editor, W. J. Craig.

JANUARY, 1904.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A union meeting of Brant and adjoining County Bee-Keepers Associations is being arranged for to be held in the Court House, Brantford on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 2nd and 3rd. The meeting is exclusively for the purpose of discussing the practical management of bees and the marketing of honey; all bee-keepers will be made welcome to come and take part in the topics. Information regarding the above will be gladly given by the Secretary of the Brant County Association (W. J. Craig) from present indications a good attendance is anticipated. On the afternoon of Wednesday the opportunity will be given to any who may wish to visit the Foster—Holterman bee cellar and honey house which we believe is the most perfectly arranged winter repository known. Mr. Holterman reported to us the other day, when the thermometer stood at 25° below zero outside that the temperature of his cellar had only fallen one degree. This certainly seems to be the nearest to perfection that we have heard of.

The market for extracted honey is still very dull; usually it brightens up a little about the Christmas season. It has been our experience in handling honey for a number of years that it is better not to hold stocks long after new year, better to sell before or soon after; Maple syrup comes in a little later and invariably checks the demand for honey.

It would be well for bee-keepers to be careful and inform themselves regarding the reliability of unknown individuals or concerns to whom they consign their honey. We have heard of some clever people being abroad at present taking advantage of the condition of the market and stocks in Ontario.

The Trenton Meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keeper's Association was on the whole very satisfactory, the most important business perhaps in connection with the meeting was the revision of the Foul Brood Act to provide for local inspectors; a full report of the changes in the act will be given later. We are pleased to say that the clouds which appeared on the horizon threatening a storm passed over midway the meeting, no damage done and leaving the association atmosphere clearer than it has been for a good while.

We must admit that we are rather in sympathy with the proposal to reduce the number of directors. We cannot see the necessity of so many and we are inclined to think that by another year unless the association assumes a much greater magnitude

than its present proportions the members will leave sentiment aside and deal with the matters from a business standpoint.

The following item under the heading "Canadian Honey" appeared recently in the "Chemist and Druggist," London, Eng.

"Honey is said to be plentiful in the Dominion this year, and from Manitoba and Ontario large quantities are offered; in fact, there appears to have been a tremendous crop all over Canada. There is not the slightest doubt (says our Canadian correspondent) that if the apiarists could succeed in improving the flavor of Canadian honey they would have an enormous outlet for it."

A wholesale grocer who is interested wrote Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, enclosing the slip asking if the statement was correct Mr. Smith replied (sending samples) that we have as good as the best over here but that the crop was not as enormous as they would make out.

MR. SAMUEL WOOD

(Continued from Page 131.)

bought a hive and paid a man to help him carry it home, a distance of three miles. He says that his first bee-keeping was rather crude, as it was generally at that time. The swarms were hived and when honey was wanted the bees were destroyed. It was years after before he heard of a work or publication on bee-keeping, the advent of these however, gave him new light and renewed interest and increasing until he launched into bee-keeping as an exclusive business. Like men in most other pursuits he has had his ups and downs, fortunes and misfortunes, has lost all on more

than one occasion. His greatest trouble has not been with foul brood but by poison, fruit-growing neighbors spraying their fruit trees when in full bloom, and, much against his will, he has had to resort to the law in order to protect his bees.

Mr. Wood has now about one hundred and fifteen colonies, part being wintered out-doors, and part in a root-house or cellar. The cellar is built of cedar blocks, mortared between like a stone wall, on a stone foundation three feet deep. The blocks are sixteen inches long and make a thick solid wall which is lathed and plastered within, and a cement floor. One portion is divided off for the bees and the other for fruit and vegetables. His bees have wintered very successfully.

Mr. Wood is quite an authority in his neighborhood on bee-keeping and is always pleased to advise and assist young bee-keepers to the best of his his ability — his mind and memory being as clear as when he was young.

Mr. Wood is well cared for by his widowed daughter, Mrs. Scott, who lives with him and is much interested in her father's pets, Mrs. Scott's son and daughter assisting him in the apiary.

We wish Mr. Wood yet many returns of his birthday, and to see him at many more conventions of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

Obituary

Died at her home in Lynden, on Monday Dec. 7th, after a lingering illness Effie Echlin, wife of George A. Howard. Decease was in her thirty-seventh year: was a daughter of the late Robt. Echlin of Beverly. She leaves her husband and five little children, the eldest of which is only fourteen years of age. Mrs. Howard was a devoted Christian wife and mother and was held in the high-

est esteem by all who knew her.

Mr. Howard is well known in bee-keeping circles in Ontario, is a bee-keeper of considerable experience: fifteen years ago in 1888, he reared and distributed the premium queens for members of the O. B. K. A. in a very satisfactory manner. Since then he had a large experience with foul brood losing his whole apiary in 1893. He now has a nice yard of a hundred colonies.

We are sure that the bee-keeping friends will well feel great sympathy with Mr. Howard in his bereavement.

Communications

Editor C. B. J.—

Dear Sir,

Taking advantage of the recent cold, blustery weather I have been doing up a few odd jobs indoors and among other things have been reading the C. B. J. for the past five or six months which previously had only been lightly scanned.

One thing I came across in the July number which particularly interested me, It was a partial report of the Chicago and North Western Convention copied from American Bee Journal entitled "Foul Brood"—"Its cause and cure," on page 283; Mr. France, in answer to the question regarding the disposal of diseased combs tells how he ran 2000 combs through that wax-press the first day, the wax-press referred to being known as the German wax-press. Now, Mr. Editor, I want to get one of those machines and I am prepared to pay a good price for it providing anything less than a locomotive can supply the necessary steam and power to work it. I am pleased to say I don't require it to melt dis-

eased combs but I do need it to melt up old superannuated brood combs, pollen-laden combs, etc.

I was formerly imbued with the idea that every little bit of a comb was valuable to the bees, that it paid to prune out patches of drone comb and "graft" worker comb in its place, that "valuable" pollen-laden combs could be "saved" by soaking them in water and then throwing the resulting 'porridge' out with the honey extractor, Bah! I got over these notions several years ago. Every fall after the bees are prepared for winter I cull over all spare combs and heavy pollen-laden ones (usually from queenless colonies) whether new or old; defective combs which could only be made suitable for the brood chamber by patching and very black and heavy worker combs no matter how perfect otherwise are all condemned to the "melting pot."

This year I have nearly 500 to melt up and expect that with the trimming up of the frames, so they can be used again, and attending to the various and numerous jobs constantly demanding attention around a home, that that number will keep me in recreation for a month.

If I had 2000 to melt I should feel perfectly justified in declining to accept any other contract during the winter.

But if I had one of those German wax-presses, I could offer to do all melting for the bee-keepers of Dufferin County. In four months all the wax from the brood combs of 25000, 8 frame hives could be placed on the market and the press could rest in Sundays too. That 500 of mine would be a mere bagatelle; by a little exertion in getting up early some bright morning they might be run through before breakfast, before the real labor of the day would commence. If the Goold, Shapley &

Muir Co. have not commenced making them, perhaps Mr. Editor you might hint to them what a great things they are for the bee-keeper, It would not be necessary to call it a "German wax-press" they might make some little change in the position of the safety valve or the governor and call it the "The Electric Age" "Comb Annihilator" but the name is immaterial, what we want is a machine guaranteed to melt 2000 combs per day, or to even "Beat the Dutch."

Yours truly,

Geo. Wood.

P. S.—On further consideration I don't think many of the machines would be required if the O. B. K. A. would purchase and employ a competent man to attend to it one might be sufficient for this province and also prove to be a profitable investment. The operator to hold the position for life or during good behaviour.

G. W.

Wesley, Dufferin County.

Dec. 16th., 1903.

Dominion Exhibition

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—There will be a Dominion Exhibition in Winnipeg next July or August and the government will, following the precedent in Toronto last season, contribute \$50,000 towards making the venture a complete success. One object of the big exhibition will be to bring the farmers of western Canada and the manufacturers of eastern Canada into closer touch. In the second place, it will doubtless attract the notice of many Americans, and prove of assistance in drawing settlers to our vacant lands.

Thoughts and ...Comments

ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

SELLING SECTIONS BY THE POUND
OR PIECE.

Dr. Miller in a "Straw" in a recent issue of "Gleanings," says that Toronto seems to be falling in line with Colorado quoting sections by the piece instead of weight. Methinks the doctor has the matter inverted, for if I mistake not, Ontario dealers were the first to show preference for the system now in vogue.

Probably the doctor is unaware that sections are nearly if not always (on this side of the line) sold at so much per dozen, nothing being said as to weight. Of course it is understood that a proper system of grading has been followed. While such can be said, pro and con, both systems, yet for the same reason that eggs are sold by the dozen, instead of by the pound: honey will likely continue to be sold in the same way.

WHEN TO HAVE COLONIES STRONG.

In the same issue comment is made on Doolittle's oft repeated axiom "of knowing one's honey resourced, and then having one's colonies strong only at the time when that strength is needed." Dr. Miller says, "I never felt that I was smart enough, with conditions in my locality to put in practice profitably the last part of the rule." He further states "the rule with me must be, colonies always strong." No doubt many Ontario bee-keepers will agree with the doctor in his decision.

ANOTHER METHOD OF USING FORMALDEHYDE.

Geo. E. Hinckley, Inspector of

Apiaries for Santa Barbara Co., Cal. gives the following method of using the drug for the cure of foul and black brood: "I use a Goodrich Atomizer No. 4, and formaldehyde equal part with water. Go to the hive to be treated and raise the body of the hive in front enough to work so as to spray the liquid on to the bottom board. The bottlefull will be enough for six hives for one application, which I make three as a course of treatment. I make the application about two weeks apart and apply it cold and do no more than to spray it on the bottom board. If it is sprayed on the combs it will kill all that it touches.

The gas dries up the diseased matter in the cells and the bees clean it out and make everything shine and the colony soon becomes strong and prosperous; but the hive must have ventilation or the gas will asphyxiate the bees, and that makes a bad matter worse. If the hive is tight, the cover must be raised by placing something between it and the top of the hive about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick."

Although I have quoted at some length, will frankly admit that I have no faith in the treatment described and would have paid no attention to the item if it had not been written by an Inspector of Apiaries. However it is so simple that any one can try it and prove things to their own satisfaction.

BEEES AS EMBALMERS

A correspondent in "Gleanings" relates that, on the bottom board of a strong colony he noticed a long crooked ridge of wax and propolis. On opening the ridge he found a snake about eight inches long. The bees had stung it to death and being unable to move it had done the next best thing—hermetically sealed it over. There was no smell and the snake was perfectly preserved.

Talk about embalming as being a lost art. Verily our little friends seem to be able to rival the ancient Egyptians in this particular craft.

ANOTHER BEE-KEEPER'S PARADISE

Space in December "Review" is pretty well monopolized by a description of portions of Northern Michigan from a bee-keepers standpoint, Raspberries in this instance is the source of the nectar and shillings.

The articles with engravings form interesting matter and almost makes me think I would like to keep bees up there.

Friend W. Z. H. certainly has the knack of writing up a location in a very "catchy" way. Guess we hadn't better invite him to visit us here in Ontario for fear his "write up" might induce so many to migrate to this "Bee-Keepers Paradise's" as to cause crowding.

ECHOES FROM THE TRENTON CONVENTION.

Admitting the truth of the old adage "all's well that ends well," believe that the meeting at Trenton will go on record as one the best ever held. There is no doubt that for some time, there has been an undercurrent of opinion in the minds of the majority of members of the O. B. K. A. that certain matters need a little adjusting.

While the resolution causing such a lengthy debate was by a very small majority laid over for another year, yet the fact of it receiving the support that it did is in itself significant.

Am more than ever convinced that for the worst part, changes advocated would be for the betterment of the association, and have reason to believe that such is the opinion of many other members. As to the matter of reducing the directorate would call attention to the fact that the

National" with a membership of over 1700 does business with the same member of directors as our Association of 150 members.

As to the liability that there would be centralization in the appointment of directors if they are elated from at large over the Province, think, that such would be unlikely to occur, to any great extent. However fail to see that any great harm would be done if such a thing should occur, as at present each director acts for the Province at large, and to my knowledge no district reports are handed in.

As to the argument that in the event of reducing the directorate, some of the present directors would be dropped; would say that the sooner we drop sentiment in these matters the better for all concerned. With all due respect, I fail to find any clause in the constitution of the O. B. K. A. stating that the office of a director is to be a sinecure or that the directors are to be fixtures of the Association.

Judging from a glance over report of the late Fruit Grower's Convention, think that a joint meeting of the fruit and bee man as planned for next fall is quite opportune as their needs appear to be identical. As stated in these columns a year ago; in the writers opinion our annual meeting should not be taken up so much with elementary subjects relative to bee-keeping as to crowd out the more difficult questions confronting us such as transportation, marketing, etc., etc.

The Secretary of the Fruit Growers voiced the sentiments of that Association in this respect in the following words:

"It seems an absurdity to ask twenty-five or a hundred experts from Canada and the neighboring public to meet at no inconsider-

able expense to listen while one of their number explains to a would be fruit grower just how to plant a currant bush."

Don't wish to be understood that I would cut out all discussion as to systems of management etc. For from it as a great deal of practical information is given in this way. However would contend that these things should occupy a secondary place and that papers and addresses by scientific men together with the higher problems confronting us should be given the preference.

Notes by the Way

By G. A. DEADMAN.

The other uses for the sample dishes referred to in last issue of C. B. J. are in connection with entertainments where honey is served; they are especially useful and convenient for this. The difficulty usually with honey socials is the inconvenience and time required to serve a large number of people in a brief time. With the sample case it is different. The honey is put in the dishes before the meeting begins, and when lunch is called, all that is required is to hand it around on the trays which contain the little dishes. Honey socials are quite a success as far as our experience with them here, at least as, regards raising money; a success too in the matter of drawing people's attention to honey. We had one in connection with the Ladies' Sewing Circle and the returns were some \$18.00. Only recently a similar one was held by our Episcopal friends with satisfactory returns. Sometimes some of the many secret

societies have a social evening, and have honey on the programme and the dishes are again brought into requisition. It is for some one to go a step further and furnish the entertainment, supply the honey and use all as an advertising medium, take orders for his product and so on. I believe there is an opening here for some one with a little capital and more ability, not only to sell some of his honey but help the sale and consumption of it in general. I say in general because no matter how selfish one would like to be, there is no way that I am aware of by which you can bring all the grist to your mill. It will always be one sowing with others doing some reaping, of one laboring and others entering into their labors. If anything was contemplated along this line, then views of apiaries, modern ways of getting extracted honey together with other interesting things could be illustrated and explained. The charges or receipts at the door must not be expected to increase very maternally the revenue. The success of the affair must be from the sale of the honey both present and future. If one were a member of some of the present day flourishing societies and worked with them I feel that success would be assured. Take in any of our large cities, one society may have several thousand members. If meetings could be arranged for at each of their places of gathering, it seems that there would not be many families but who would have at least one pail of the brothers honey with more to follow. At all such gatherings we should not miss the opportunity of giving some information about honey never omitting to explain why it differs so much when gathered from the same source, so as to educate the consumer regarding unripe honey. Somehow I feel that too much cannot be said against this so-

called honey, for there is always danger of some one getting some of it and may be forever turned against the good. I suppose it would be too visionary to think of advertising our honey as they do some of the beverages of the present day by appointing a week at some leading store where it could be served and its virtues and differences explained. I suppose a better way would be to get the merchant interested or be a merchant yourself and work up a trade accordingly. The problem just now is not so much how we shall produce more honey but rather than to dispose of what we have. Who will give us more light on this subject?

G. A. Dendman,
Brussels, Ont

LARGE V. SMALL HIVES IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE BEES FOR EXISTENCE.
 BY DR. A. W. SMYTH.

As a natural law the survival of the fittest in the struggle for life is now generally admitted. But with bees it is not the survival of the fittest to general natural conditions, but to specific artificial conditions, which latter bring about the result we study in the communities.

When individuals capable of independent existence take to communal life to aid them in the struggle of life, there is always contention, and sometimes violence, as to who shall rule. In the natural order of things numbers cannot rule, therefore individuals are chosen to rule, or by reason of superior strength they assume of themselves the control of others. With bees this is not the natural order of things. The

community, depending for its existence on large numbers, has, by artificial methods, from the earliest stages of growth, rendered the mature product incapable of independent existence. There being no individual life outside of the community, the welfare and interest of the community govern every individual action; and, without apparent rule, harmony prevails over the whole. To the wisdom of the old having control of the young is due the congruous incongruity which we study in bee life.

The worker bees are undeveloped insects. From insufficient or innutritious food given to the workers while in the immature or larval state, their complete development is arrested; and this arrested development renders them more susceptible to disease. It is well known that undeveloped or impaired growth is liable to be attacked by microbes; and the worker bees, from the beginning of their existence, are so exposed.

All bee-keepers know that as we diminish the size of the hive, and thereby reduce storing room, we increase the necessity for feeding the bees; and, while bee-keepers assert that honey is more nutritious, and is a better food than sugar, they aver that sugar answers as well as honey for feeding bees. Both assertions cannot be true, and I believe the latter is not true. All attempts to convert sugar into honey, and to utilize the bees as manufacturers for this purpose, have failed.

Insects already rendered vulnerable to disease from innutritious food in the larval state cannot still be fed on innutritious food in the mature state without becoming a prey to disease. Feeding bees largely on sugar must lower their vitality, and queens raised by sugar-fed bees, from the defective nutriment given them may be want-

ing in vital strength, and their progeny, from their inherited weakness, may be predisposed to disease. Dzierzon said, twenty years ago, that bees should be fed on well ripened honey; and what I now say is, therefore, only a varied reiteration.

The necessity for feeding bees can be done away with to a great extent by giving them a larger hive, and this is the only way in which it can be done. Increasing the capacity of the hive by increasing the number of shallow frames will not help the bees in a cold climate. Cold climates require increased numbers and larger combs for reasons fully stated in previous articles. It is obvious that the more uncertain the climate in any locality, the larger must be the hive in order to save the bees from starvation, disease, and death.

There is another point connected with feeding which bee-keepers will have to think over, and that is—the general use of antiseptics in food given to the bees. Feeding healthy animals on disinfected food with a view to prevent disease caused by the bacteria, is not an established practice in therapeutics. The antiseptic can be of no use when disease is not present, and it may be productive of harm. Food sterilized by antiseptics is, to a corresponding extent, impaired in nutritive value. Even milk, sterilized by boiling, loses in nutritive properties. Feeding bees continually on poisons, in order to prevent the growth of bacteria only occasionally pathogenic from abnormal conditions which might possibly be avoided, cannot be approved of by what we know of the bacteria or the diseases produced by them. It may be said that experience proves the poisons to be of benefit. This, to say the least is very doubtful. For centuries it was thought that experience proved bloodletting to be of benefit

in the treatment of fevers, but in the last few years it has been found that this remedy may be injurious, and it has been abandoned as of no use. That it was more harmful than helpful is now painfully plain. The poet Byron was bled for a fever not now considered dangerous, provided the patient be not bled. It is a little remarkable in history that the poets servant should have thought so at the time.

While we must be guided by experience, we have to be careful that from preconceived notions, in some cases not easily eliminated, our experience may not be leading us astray. The collective wisdom of centuries has been sometimes swept away in a few years; but the ignorance of ages may yet cling steadfastly where the greed of man is the motive which blinds him to results.

Irish Bee Journal

The Only One.

The Youth's Companion of Boston continues its proud position as the cleanest and best young peoples paper published. While it holds the affection and intense interest of the young it also captivates the old boys and girls too, and every member of the family keep close watch of the day when it makes its welcome weekly visit. We like the companion not alone for its bright and interesting short stories and serials but for the splendid instruction given through the best writers on practical subjects and also for the high moral tone that pervades each issue. Parents who are anxious to secure safe and helpful reading for their families cannot do better than send \$1 75 to the Youth's Companion Boston, Mass. for a years subscription for they will get splendid value.

Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association.

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Bee-Keepers' Association was held in the City Hall, London, on Nov. 28th. The attendance was very good considering that our association has been in a dormant state for about 8 years. Last spring it was reorganized.

The following officers were appointed for 1904: — President, Wm. Coleman, Birr; Vice-President, R.H. Smith, St. Thomas; Sec-Treas., E. T. Bainard, Lambeth.

Among the questions that were discussed was that of wintering. For wintering a colony outside an eight frame Langstroth hive should weigh without cover, about 55 pounds. For packing material flax, chaff or leaves were considered best, and that the packing should be kept dry by a good cover. Snow on the wintering cases was considered a benefit by some of the members, providing that it was dry and light, but a heavy wet snow should be shovelled away from the fronts of the cases. Other members thought snow should be kept away all the time.

To prevent swarming, give plenty of room to the queen and for honey early in the season, also clip queen wings to prevent loss if they die swarm.

Two members had tried the Carniolans but did not like them any better than the Italians. They were too much given to swarming.

Next meeting will be called for the first Saturday in May.

E. T. BAINARD, Sec.

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving. — W. Holmes.

Feeding Bees in Their Winter Quarters . . .

The following circular on feeding bees in their winter quarters has been issued at the experimental farm, Ottawa where a number of very careful experiments in apiculture are being conducted by Mr. J. Fixter. Owing to the past unfavorable season for honey gathering in the Ottawa valley many letters have been received from people who have only a few colonies of bees, stating that when carrying their bees into winter quarters they had discovered there did not seem to be sufficient store of honey in the hive to carry the bees through the winter. To gain information as to the best method of overcoming this difficulty the following experiment was tried with six strong colonies of bees.

Four frames of sealed honey were taken from each of the six colonies leaving the cluster on the four remaining frames. The four frames were left in the centre of the hive with a division board at each side and a light packing was placed between the division boards and the sides of the hive. The wooden covers were removed and a large propolis quilt made of heavy canvas was placed over the top of each hive. A para packing was placed to keep in the heat, absorb moisture and prevent draughts or upward ventilation. The bottom boards were left as they came from the bee yard keeping the entrances wide open.

The experiment was as follows:—
Two colonies received maple honey of the best quality,

Two colonies received candied honey and sugar,

3. Two colonies received partly filled sections of honey.

Each colony when put on this test weighed 31 lbs and each was given 5 lbs of its particular food to start with. The experiment lasted from November 18th., 1902 to March 22nd., 1903.

The two colonies fed on maple sugar consumed 11½ lbs. each, they were examined every two weeks and water added to the sugar through holes in the tops of the cakes keeping it soft and moist.

The two colonies fed on partly filled sections of honey consumed during the same time 14¾ lbs each. There was for several reasons considerable waste in this test and if partly filled sections could be sold even at a reduced price it would be advisable to do so instead of feeding back.

The two colonies that were given candied honey consumed 10¾ lbs each. The candied honey was moistened at intervals which made it easier for the bees to suck up. Candied honey is made as follows:— Take good thick clover honey and heat (not boil) it until it becomes very thin, then stir in fine granulated sugar, after stirring in all the sugar the honey will absorb, take it out of the utensil in which it has been mixed, and thoroughly knead it with the hands. The kneading makes it more pliable and soft so that it absorbs or rather takes up more sugar. The kneading operation with the adding of fine sugar should be continued until the dough is so stiff as to be quite hard to work. It should then be allowed to stand for a day or two, and if at the end of that time it is so soft as to run or be sticky a little more sugar should be kneaded in. It should be cut into convenient sized cakes and placed on top of

the frames in such a way that the bees can get at it easily.

The colonies in all three tests came through in excellent condition. Any one of the three methods may be safely followed but I would strongly recommend examining and weighing all bees the first week in September. At that time every colony should have a good laying queen, and should weigh over 50 lbs. In seasons when there is no fall flow of honey all colonies, in Langstroth hives weighing less than 50 lbs in September should be fed up to that weight at least. The best method for getting colonies up to the required weight is, when extracting to save several full well sealed combs, then remove some of the light ones out of the hives and replace then with the heavier full frames. If no honey is available feed sugar syrup, this latter plan is rather a tedious one and great care must be taken not to daub the hives or appliances as robbing at this season of the year is very easily started and very hard to stop.

Sugar syrup may be made as follows. Use the best grade of granulated sugar, two parts to one of water by weight. The water should first be brought to a boil, then the pan or vessel set back on the stove so that boiling will not continue but the water be kept sufficiently hot to dissolve all the sugar,

The sugar should be poured in slowly and thoroughly stirred until all is dissolved. The syrup should then be fed in a lukewarm condition.

John Fixter,

Experimental Farm Bee Keeper,
Ottawa.

Success is costly if we pay for it in lowered standards and degraded manhood and womanhood. — Mrs. Whitney.

THE MARITIME
.....WINTER FAIR

The above Fair was held at Amherst, Nova Scotia, Dec. 14th to 17th. The exhibition was largely attended and an exhibit of honey and apian products made a special feature. The honey exhibitors were:—Messrs. A. Fawcett, E. L. Colpitts, W. McGregor and I. C. Craig.

Some interesting features were displayed to draw attention. Mr. Colpitts showed the old and the new method of bee-keeping, Mr. Fawcett had an immense block of granulated honey in display which attracted more attention than anything else in the apiarian line and perhaps in the entire building.

A Maritime Bee-Keeper's Association was organized, three sessions of bee-keepers were held, great enthusiasm being displayed. The officers elected were as follows:—Pres., E. L. Colpitts, New Brunswick; Vice-President, Chas. W. McClelland, Nova Scotia; Secretary, B. W. Baker, Amherst, Nova Scotia; District Vice-President, A. Fawcett, New Brunswick; Rev. Father Burke, Prince Edward Island; Rev. P. S. McGregor, Nova Scotia.

It was decided to make the membership fee one dollar per annum payable to the secretary. To give an incentive to each member an Italian queen, a bee, or if a box hive bee-keeper, a modern hive at a reduced rate.

Mr. R. F. Holtermann was the judge, organizer and lecturer, and on the evening of December 17th an address was given on bee-keeping in place in agriculture, the value of honey as a food, and the life history of the bee.

The auditorium, holding from 1300 to 1500 people, was nicely filled. Hon. W. S. Fielding, Dominion

tion Minister of Finance; Hon. Arthur Peters, Hon. T. R. Black, Mr. H. J. Logan, M. P., Col. Blair, Col. H. M. Campbell and others occupied places on the platform. The next annual meeting of the Bee-Keepers' Association is called for the time of the Fair.

Keeping More Bees.

Somewhere about three or four years ago at a convention held in Buffalo, a Mr. Coggsball, of New York State, peeled forth the advice to bee-keepers, to "keep more colonies" in order to increase their income. He was soon followed by W. Z. Hutchinson, at another convention with a similar note, "Keep more colonies." Such advise, coming from such Apicultural Gods filled the whole fraternity within the sound thereof with consternation and amazement. This new "evolution" in business was a stunner to a great many, and I have no doubt was a stimulus to a large number, who went to the expense of getting more hives, etc., and of providing winter quarters for more colonies, and the extra labor contingent thereto, all this extra trouble to produce more honey in order to increase their income, has resulted in a lower production, which has brought the price down, had there been a favorable season in Eastern Ontario and Quebec, the price would have been much lower than it is. Just imagine a lot of manufacturers increasing their plant and output in a limited market, to increase their income, it seems to me it would cause a slump in the price of their product. There are individual cases like Coggsball's who have done it and succeeded. But for every bee-keeper or part of them to do likewise means ruin. This new "evolution" in business won't work in bee-keeping any better than in any other business.

I see by York County Bee Keeper in December "C. B. Journal" that W. Z. H. is booming this new "evolution" again in his paper. From the present price of clover honey. I don't think he will influence many Canadian bee-keepers. There are already too many colonies in the country for the business to be very profitable.

W. H. Kirby.

Oshawa, Dec. 9th., 1903.

Christmas Farmer's Advocate

An especially hopeful message which, coming from so able a source, cannot but be regarded as auspicious, runs through the Christmas Farmers Advocate and Home Magazine, of London, Ont., of which we have just received a copy. Even its title-page gives presage of great things for Canada, and as the purport of the design, beautifully executed in the tricolor process, were not clear enough for all who "run" to "read," its prophecy has been further emphasized by that fine quatrain from the eminent Canadian writer, Chas. G. D. Roberts:

"But thou, my country, dream not thou!
Wake, and behold how night is done,—
How on thy breast, and o'er thy brow,
Bursts the the uprising sun!"

Ever noted for its out-and-out Canadian sentiment, the Farmer's Advocate, in this number sustains its old-time reputation. Canadian artists, Canadian writers, Canadian agriculturists speak from its every page, the result being a number in the highest degree creditable to its publishers, and useful and entertaining to its readers. That the army of the latter is by no means inconsiderable may be judged from the fact that over 28 tons of paper have been required in making up the Christmas number alone. We congratulate the Farmer's Advocate on the success of its holiday number, which we would suggest, might be utilized as a Christmas gift which anyone might be proud to receive. We also congratulate the readers of that paper upon the fact that the Farmer's Advocate will be issued henceforth as a weekly, a decision which must rebound to the satisfaction of its readers. We club the Advocate with the Canadian Bee Journal.

MILLS vs. THE WITNESS

\$10,000 Libel Suit Ends in Victory for the Witness.

J. Bidwell Mills, of Hamilton, sued the Montreal Witness for \$10,000 damages on account of articles in the Witness dealing with two concerns engineered by Mr. Mills, called the Business Men's Union and the Merchants' Protective and Collecting Agency. Mr. Mills or his agents collected moneys in the name of one or other of these concerns in ways which the Witness stigmatized as blackmailing and the obtaining of money on false pretences. Hence the suit.

The finding of the Jury is that the Witness is not guilty of libel: that the articles were substantially true, were not libellous, and were in the public interest. Mr. Mills' action is dismissed with costs against him.

The suit will cost the Witness a considerable sum of money. The costs granted against Mr. Mills will defray court expenses, but not the main part of what the Witness will pay its lawyers. In other words, the newspaper did a valuable public service, was put to much annoyance and trouble, and loses money. Therefore, let the public realize that a newspaper which evidently is trying fairly and decently to do public service in such respects should receive a goodly share of the public respect and confidence.

Now, one reason why the Witness, like the Journal, does not lose libel suits is that its intentions are honest and fair; it will neither do nor persist in any conscious or wilful injustice; nor, if accidentally wrong, hesitate to make amends; and if a libel suit gets as far as the courts it is likely to be because the Witness is right—Ottawa "Journal."

The "Shareholder" says: "The result of the suit of Mills against the Witness is a triumph for honest journalism. Actions for libel where there is no malice are simply efforts to gag the press. There are newspapers which suppress the truth in the fear of legal proceedings for libel or else of offending an advertiser. Papers of the stamp of the Witness will not stoop to such considerations, and these should receive the heartiest support from the public."

There is no Metropolitan newspaper more respected and appreciated than the Montreal Witness.

WORLD WIDE ARTICLES

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