

and the boys reading this would become interested in their father's work and follow in their steps. Farming, in his opinion, is far ahead of any other business, and it should be made attractive. Here, in Lancaster county, the garden spot, there should be a well-organized agricultural society, but from what he had heard he believed the society's affairs were not in good condition. There was no reason for this.

Speaking of fairs, he said a fair without a clown. Over in Berks county they award high premiums to horses, and raise the money by charging admission fee when the horses are entered; also, a fee for the spectators. He wanted to know if the Western people could succeed in Lancaster farmers in this branch of agriculture. Berks county farmers had not learned how to raise it yet. He thought truck farming would produce the most money. He thought the reason for the failure of stock-raising in this part of the State, that the Western men could raise it so much cheaper, and then send their poor stock here, selling it at the lowest rates. Farmers here, therefore, must raise crops that the Western people cannot send so long a distance, truck, fruit, etc. Our fruit, of course, cannot compare with that of California, but we need have no fear of competition from that quarter. We can raise truck, fruit, and other things; the latter is not only a great luxury, but it is very profitable.

Mr. Engle said he was much pleased with the gentleman's remarks, which, though rambling, were very interesting. He felt that much could be raised a greater variety of products, and not depend on the cereals alone.

Judge Stitzel then spoke of the offer of the Berks County Agricultural Society of a premium to the planter of the largest number of trees. The money was voted in 1875, and he was on the committee to award the premiums and form the rules. This premium caused at least 50,000 trees to be planted in the county. He thought the money was well expended. They also offered a premium for the best cultivated orchard. Before it was offered the orchards were, in a majority of cases, in a bad condition, but the premium made them in fine condition, and the improvement was wonderful. He thought if Lancaster county farmers would offer a premium the county would be benefited, as was Berks county.

A. F. Hostetter, of Conowingo, was at the meeting. The Lancaster County Judge Stitzel had read an essay on "Houses for Preserving Fruit," and he wished that the gentleman would repeat the principal items of it.

In response to this request Judge Stitzel related, shortly, their method of preserving fruit. They constructed refrigerators or fruit-houses, which men raising fruit should build together and erect. They are made up of two or three stories, and are built over the top and in the sides. The story above should be six or eight feet high with a little story above that for ventilation. The flue is run through from the first to the second story, and the temperature should be regulated by a valve. The fruit in wooden boxes, should be gathered early and put in the ice house at once. He has Rambo apples now, which are as fresh as when picked. Cider, oranges, lemons and eggs can be kept in these fruit-houses, and other fruit. There are varieties of apples that will keep in the cellar that will not keep in the fruit house, but the majority of water apples will keep well.

Mr. Engle said that if Lancaster county did not look out it would lose its right to the name of the garden county, and simply from want of enterprise. He had long since proposed the building of fruit houses, but none were ever put up.

It was then that he extended to Judge Stitzel for his instructive remarks.

The Society's Charter.

Mr. Eby presented a draft of a charter for the society, which he proposed to submit to the Court. Its provisions were in accordance with the resolutions of the meeting of the 17th inst.

Several of the members seemed to think that there was danger in the stock plan. There idea was that outsiders might purchase so much of the stock as would give them a majority, and then divert the society from its original purpose, leaving the farmers out in the cold.

On motion, the charter was taken up, but several causes caused dissatisfaction among the members, and it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to the 24th inst. as adjourn to meet two weeks hence, when a full attendance of the members is earnestly requested, as the business transacted will be of the utmost importance. On motion, it was resolved to have the last four volumes of *The Lancaster Farmer* bound.

Business for Next Meeting.

"How can farm life be made more attractive and pleasant?" was adopted for general discussion at the next meeting. Adjourned.

BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Bee-keepers' Association met on Monday afternoon, February 17, in the parlor of the Black Horse Hotel. Vice President J. F. Hershey called the meeting to order, with the following members and visitors present: Peter Reist, President, Litz;

J. G. Martin, Esq.; J. F. Hershey, Mount Joy; John Huber, Perki; Elias Hershey, Paradise; Clare Carpenter, city; J. M. Johnston, city; F. R. Dillender, city; Jonas H. Stitzel, Clay Lampeter; S. H. Munnell, New Holland; J. Hurst, Blairbridge; J. H. Mellinger, Strasburg; E. H. Mellinger, Strasburg; Amos A. Resler, Strasburg.

Reports.

The President stated that he wintered about seventy swarms in the house he prepared for that purpose. His loss was about five or six.

I. G. Martin so far has lost very few bees, not half a pint to a swarm, but the most severe time is yet to come and it is hard to tell how things will turn out.

H. J. Heston reported that while others speak of the same, he has five swarms yet lost; no loss none during the winter.

John Huber reported that his swarms so far are all safe.

Jonas H. Shank had seven hives which he wintered on summer stands.

Elias Hershey started in the fall with twenty-five hives which are all alive and doing well. Some of them were wintered on summer stands.

Feeding Glucose to Bees.

"Should glucose be fed to Bees?" was proposed by the chairman for debate. None of the members had tried it, and therefore could not give any opinion on the subject. J. F. Hershey stated that some claims to be of great value while others speak strongly against it. He would advise bee-keepers not to use it.

I. G. Martin said he had never tried it nor did he think he would like it. He also spoke against the use of grape sugar in large quantities.

Elias Hershey said that the *American Bee Journal* gave an instance where several hundred bees were killed by the feeding of glucose, while the editor of the *Journal* said that he had never had anything happen that he had fed hundreds of bees on it with good effect.

Dollar Queens.

Would it be advisable to invest in dollar queens? was the next question proposed.

I. G. Martin said he had purchased some at different seasons and at a few prices but he as good as tested queens costing \$5, while others were worth nothing. He would advise that they be purchased to be used for starting new hives, so that if they are lost they will be as good as nothing.

Elias Hershey's experience had been about the same; out of five that he bought two were good and three were worthless.

J. F. Hershey wanted to have nothing to do with dollar queens, as he thought it was to run in dealing in them. If you get dollar queens and breed from them for three or four years, the result will be very poor stock.

Comb Foundations.

J. H. Mellinger asked the opinion of the society on the use of comb foundations.

J. G. Martin has used these made without wires, and advised the members to get foundations made of pure wax, for that made of a mixture will stretch, and is not fit for use. If the foundation is used in the lower part of the hive, the frame should not be over nine inches wide, or it will stretch. He fastens the foundation to the frame by pressing it to the top bar, and then nailing sticks on top of it.

J. F. Hershey had not used it yet, but intended to do so. He would use that with wire as it don't sack or stretch.

Springing Bees.

J. F. Hershey asked as to the best mode of springing bees. It is almost as hard to keep them through the spring as through the winter.

J. H. Mellinger said he fed his bees in the latter part of February, and so early it will apple blossom time, and even after that, if the weather is not favorable, till other blossoms appear. This kept them in good condition, and he got early swarms.

J. G. Martin read a paper on this subject, which was as follows:

It is of great importance that we should have our bees strong in spring before the honey harvest is at hand. But how shall we get them strong and the bees filled with honey early? My plan is as soon as spring opens and the bees begin to gather pollen, to examine every colony by lifting the frames out, and if the stock is weak, I shut the bees to one side of the hive with a close-fitting division board, so as many combs as they can cover, so as to keep up the need necessary for brood-rearing.

If the stock is very weak, I take all the combs out of the hive, and if it is so weak that the bees can't cover two combs, then I unite with another colony. As soon as the queen has filled these combs with eggs, I spread them apart and insert an empty comb with them in brood. In two or three days this will be filled with eggs, and I insert another comb, inserting empty combs as fast as the queen fills them with eggs, and always in the middle of the brood-nest till it is full. Thus it will be seen that the queen will be laying in the centre of the brood-nest

all the time, instead of on the outside of the cluster, which she seldom will in the cold weather of spring, but when it is warm and the bees are plenty, then she will show where her nest is, and the queen will be on the outside of the cluster. As soon as the strongest stocks are full, I take a frame of hatching brood out and put it in a weaker one, and then put an empty comb in the stronger one for the queen to fill again, and so I keep on till they are full.

Then is the time to put on the honey boxes, so if they gather honey then they must put it in the boxes, for the hive below is all taken up with brood. As well as about have some pieces of comb attached to the top for a starter, or, if you have no nice white comb, put in a narrow strip of comb foundation.

J. F. Hershey had lost some weak colonies that he fed and others that he did not feed at all, but all became strong and were among his best swarms. I. G. Martin said he did not like early feeding for breeding or rearing in the spring. If the bees are to be fed at all it should be done after the middle of May, and before red clover blossoms appear.

J. F. Hershey said that since he kept bees his best queen did not begin to lay until March, and that swarm gave 130 pounds of honey, while the others which began earlier did very little or so much.

Marketing Honey.

The chairman proposed the discussion of the question of the best way of preparing honey for market. He has sold a considerable quantity, and found that the more attractive way it is put up the better it sells. He formerly put it up in large boxes, but now he uses one or two pound jars, and two pounds are used, and he thought it sold more rapidly.

I. G. Martin exhibited a box which he called the "Fridge" box, and he thought it would soon be universally used. He thought it would be better to have told him that the two-pound boxes would sell better than those holding only one pound, as men who can afford to buy one pound of honey can as well buy two pounds. However, he did not put honey in one-pound jars, but in two-pound jars, or nearest market. In putting up extracted honey, one or two pound jars should be used. If honey is taken from the bees in winter, it should be kept in a warm room. If comb honey is put in a cool place it will run out.

J. F. Hershey thought honey should be kept in a warm place; if the moth comes it should be expelled by the use of sulphur. In testing honey for market, he found that one-pound boxes were easier than he could a two-pound box, as the poor man can better afford to buy them. The advantage of using one-pound boxes is that two, three, four or five pounds can be bought, while in two-pound boxes three pounds cannot be sold.

Honey Exhibition.

J. F. Hershey suggested that an exhibition of honey be held in August. He moved that a fee of fifty cents a year be charged, and when the show is given a premium be given to the member bringing the honey put in the best marketable shape.

Elias Hershey suggested that it would be well if the exhibition were held in conjunction with the fair to be held by the Agricultural Society. August would be too early to hold a fair.

F. R. Dillender moved that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Agricultural Society as to the advisability of holding the exhibition in connection with their fair.

The motion was carried, and Messrs. Elias Hershey, I. G. Martin and Peter S. Reist were appointed as the committee.

Resolutions for Next Meeting.

J. H. Mellinger moved that the chair refer questions to different members of the society, who could write essays in answer to them, and their ideas could be discussed by the society.

The motion was carried, and Messrs. J. F. Hershey, J. H. Mellinger, I. G. Martin and H. B. Myers were appointed to prepare essays on any subject they think proper to write upon.

Rye Flour for Bees.

J. H. Mellinger asked if it is advisable to feed rye flour to the bees in the spring.

J. F. Hershey said he has fed it, but would not advise that it be fed too strong; as the bees will fill up the boxes with it, feed it slowly. By feeding a little every day to five or ten swarms they are stimulated.

Elias Hershey said that if there are any maple trees about, rye flour should not be fed, as they can gather pollen from the trees.

Peter Reist appeared during the meeting and asked to be excused from attendance, pleading business engagements. His request was granted.

Adjourned to meet three months hence.

POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

The Lancaster County Poultry Association met in their rooms in the City Hall, on Monday, March 28, and was called to order by President D. C. Tobias. The following members and visitors were present: Rev. D. C. Tobias, President, Litz; J. B. Lichty, Secretary, city; Frank B. Buch, Litz; T. F. Evans,