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Prof. S. S. RATHVON, Editor.

LANCASTER, MARCH 15, 1876.

PEARSOL & GEIST, Publishers.

"THE LITTLE BUSY BEE."

Organization of a Bee-keepers' Society—A New Interest to Be Protected and Cultivated.—Interesting Discussion, &c.

The first meeting of the Lancaster County Bee-keepers' Society was held in this city on Monday, March 13th. An organization was effected by electing Peter S. Reist, of Manheim, President; J. F. Hershey, of Mount Joy, Vice-President; and A. B. Herr, of West Hempfield, Secretary.

The following members were present: H. B. Nissley, D. H. Lintner, John Huber, Elias Hershey, John Kepperling, A. H. Shock, J. F. Hershey, Peter S. Reist, S. G. Garber, Joel Fisher, A. B. Herr, and Leonard Flickenstein. The above gentlemen represented 1,300 hives.

The first subject discussed was, "Will Bee-keeping pay?"

J. F. HERSHEY thought it did. He realized 100 per cent. out of the money he had invested in bees. During the past few years he had sold over \$600 worth of honey and queen bees.

PETER S. REIST believed that if bee-keeping was understood thoroughly it would pay better than most any other kind of business. If only 50 per cent. on the amount invested would be made, it would be paying well.

MESSRS. S. G. GARBER, ELIAS HERSHEY and LEONARD FLICKENSTEIN also spoke in favor of bee raising, and said they were well paid for the interest taken in the matter.

"Which is the best, the Italian or the Black bee?" was the next question.

ELIAS HERSHEY favored the Italian Bee on account of its swarming and honey-making qualities.

J. F. HERSHEY preferred the Italian Bee on account of its protecting the hives from moth. Crossed bees were the best for making honey.

LEONARD FLICKENSTEIN had a colony of black bees that made more honey than the Italian, but he preferred the latter on account of their many other good qualities.

The next question was, "Do Bees Injure Fruit?"

J. F. HERSHEY said the bees are blamed for injuring grapes. They never touch a grape unless it is already partly destroyed by a wasp or other insect. He had as high as fifty swarms in his orchard at a time and never noticed any diminution or destruction of his apples. His clover crop was benefited very much by the presence of the bees.

D. H. LINTNER had often heard of bees destroying grapes, but after a series of experiments he found that it was not so.

PETER S. REIST was of the opinion that bees were a great benefit to flowers, as they carried the pollen of one flower to that of the other. The bee bread which they carry with them is also beneficial to the flowers.

"How long can a brood remain exposed without

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being covered by the bees and still be used for queen raising?" was the next question introduced.

LEONARD FLICKENSTEIN had a piece of comb lying exposed to a damp, chilly air for twenty-four hours, from which he raised a prolific queen. He did not know whether the comb contained any eggs or not.

J. F. HERSHEY knew of combs with egg being shipped by mail and kept for five days, from which young queens were hatched. If a brood is over five days old a queen cannot be raised. Some have been raised, but they are not perfect.

The question, "What is the reason that a queen's sting is curved and a worker bee's sting is straight, and yet hatched from the same kind of an egg?" was believed to have been made so by nature, in order to attack its rivals.

"Why is a Fertile Worker Produced and How?"

D. H. LINTNER believed it was produced to take the place of a queen. It lays eggs the same as a queen, sometimes as high as three to a cell, but they are perfectly worthless. They would not hatch, and if a queen would be placed in the same hive with them they would kill it. The only way to save the queens, in this respect, is to banish the fertile workers or transfer them to another hive. He could not tell how a fertile worker was produced.

J. F. HERSHEY said the fertile workers produced nothing but drones.

The last question brought before the Society was, "Which is the Better Plan, Natural or Artificial Swarming?"

J. F. HERSHEY preferred the artificial way. When a natural hive swarms it generally takes seventeen days before the hive is got in good working condition. In the artificial way, a queen can be placed in the hive at once and thus save all this time. You can swarm three times by the artificial way where you can swarm twice in the natural way. When swarming in the artificial way, the bees should have as much honey in the hive as when they go into winter quarters.

PETER S. REIST was of the opinion that natural swarming was the best if you had a prolific queen in the proper place. Artificial swarming should be thoroughly understood before it is attempted. Thousands of bees are killed annually by this neglect. If it were not for artificial swarming he would not have near so many bees as he has now.

LEONARD FLICKENSTEIN and JACOB KEPPERLING also favored artificial swarming, and cited several experiments which they had undertaken. They both believed that a week or ten days were gained by artificial swarming.

The chair appointed J. F. Hershey, A. B. Herr and Leonard Flickenstein as a committee to prepare practical questions for discussion for the next meeting, which will be held at Kaufman's Black Horse Hotel, this city, on the second Monday in May.

A general invitation is extended to all persons interested in bee culture to be present at the next meeting.