

THE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Lancaster County Beekeepers' Society met Monday afternoon, August 11, at 2 o'clock in the parlor of the Black Horse Hotel. The following members were present: Eli Hershey, Jr., Litzitz; J. H. H. Churchhouse; I. G. Martin, Earl; John Ettemiller, Strasburg; H. G. Shirk, Cernarvon; J. H. Lintner, Millersville; J. F. Hershey, Mt. Joy; Levan Weigle, Earl; A. K. Deaner, Cernarvon; J. G. McMillan, Earl; P. S. Reist, Fleckenstein, Manor, and P. S. Reist, President, Litzitz.

The meeting was opened by the President, P. S. Reist. As the Secretary was absent, J. M. Johnston, of *the Millersville Beekeepers' Association*, acted as Secretary. The President, Mr. Reist, reported that the honey crop of the United States to be about 8,800,000 tons. The amount of wax was about 6,000,000 tons. The total value of crop—wax and honey—was about \$1,300,000. The highest award at the honey show in England was given to Americans. He reported an increase of about 75 per cent. in his swarms. All of his colonies were robbed, and they evidently had no quiescence. His honey product would be comparatively small, on account of the drought. The crop, however, is a tolerably fair condition.

J. F. Hershey, Mt. Joy, stated that his bees were doing well. He obtained 650 pounds of honey. His bees are doing nothing or nothing new. They are in good condition so far.

Mr. D. H. Lintner, Millersville, said his bees did very well during the months of April, May and June. He started with fourteen hives, and now has twelve more, making 26 hives. In June he commenced transferring to twelve-form hives. His bees are all in good condition. He took 250 pounds honey. His bees paid 250 per cent. on money invested. Sold his honey at 20 and 25 cents per pound. They have not done much since July.

Mr. I. G. Martin, Earl, said he had twenty colonies started in the spring. Tried to stop swarming, as he had one natural swarm. His bees were made artificial swarms, increasing the number of colonies to thirty-one. He has taken 540 pounds of honey, but since the harvest the season is very poor. The honey crop is about over for the year.

Eli Hershey, Paradise, said his bees had increased about 35 per cent. He had twenty-six hives; and obtained on an average 25 pounds per hive. Mr. Fleckenstein, Manor, said he had started twenty hives, and depends on one-half of them for honey. Only had one natural swarm. Tried to prevent them as much as possible. His object is to get more honey with less bees. He obtained on an average 15 to 20 pounds to a hive. The season is not over yet in his neighborhood. He has a tract at Susquehanna river, and his bees fly over to the York county side and gather honey from the buckwheat fields.

John Etiemiller, Strasburg, said he started with fifteen swarms, and now has twenty-seven. He obtained 200 pounds of honey in the comb. His bees are in good wintering condition.

Mr. J. F. Hershey answered the question, "What is the best method of preventing swarming?" as follows:

As this question was referred to P. S. Reist and he referred it to me, I will say a few words on the subject of preventing bees from swarming. I find that there are four points that must be made use of, and those are shade, air, putting empty combs between brood and getting the bees to work in honey boxes. To prevent swarming commence as soon as the bees are getting to be known that they are well shaded; but have them so arranged that the air can pass over and around the hive. If a hive is ever so well shaded and stands in a warm place where the air cannot pass over and around it, shade will not help prevent swarming. Shade and air must both be made use of at the same time. If shade is made with a roof, keep the roof one or two feet above the hives; don't merely shade them by having the roof right in the top of them. Shade the rays of the sun will come too close to the hive.

Putting Empty Combs Between Brood.

When the centre combs are well filled with capped brood and the nights are warm, take an outside comb, and if the comb is full of honey uncap it; then put it between two combs that are filled with brood. In this way empty combs are put between brood. If three combs are put between brood it is enough, and not more than one comb should be put between brood at a time; if more is used at one time the brood nest is spread too fast for the bees.

Getting the Bees to work in the Honey Boxes.

Give each swarm two, three or four sections filled with comb, and get them to work that empty. As soon as the bees gather honey, they will fill the combs in the section, and at the same time will commence to build combs in the adjoining empty section. When the bees are full they will fill them out, and put empty sections in their place. If the sections are left on till they are full the bees will not have enough room to build combs, and will commence to build queen-cells, and the brood chamber being filled with honey, the queen will have no room to lay.

A general discussion followed in which a number of the members participated.

Mr. G. McMillan, in answer to the question, "Should quiescence be fed to bees?" that he didn't know; that he never used it, and would like to hear from some one who had tried it. He was not in favor of experimenting with it.

Mr. J. F. Hershey said that he had never used it, and never intended to. He thought it a rather risky experiment.

Mr. Reist said that Mr. Thurlow, of this city, had tried it, and bees seemed to like it, but the honey tasted bitter.

Mr. J. F. Hershey showed a case of Italian bees and also a frame, exhibiting his method of making a comb foundation.

Mr. G. Martin exhibited a jar of extracted honey, and a crate of honey in comb, prepared for shipping, containing twelve two-pound boxes.

Mr. Lintner exhibited a pan of honey containing eight or ten pounds.

Mr. J. F. Hershey showed a crate of honey, in one pound boxes, size 3/8 by 5 inches, which he called the right size boxes. He says they sell faster than two pound boxes. He also showed several cases of Italian bees and a queen put up ready for shipping.

The President stated that the Fruit Growers' Association was holding a meeting to determine whether they would have a fair this season, and should like to have you that they are an advocate. First, the stamens and pistils of flowers answer to the different organs of the sexes—that is, male and female. The stamens in the male, which furnishes the pollen, and the pistils in the female, are impregnated by this dust or pollen from the stamens, or no fruit will be produced. Now, as we all know that the breeding in and in of animals is detrimental, so it is in the vegetable kingdom. The pollen from one flower falling on the pistil of its own flower would deteriorate. Thus it becomes necessary that the pollen produced by the stamens of one flower shall fertilize the pistil of another, to prevent inbreeding. This is fully accomplished by the bees traveling from flower to flower, and carrying the pollen sticking to their legs and wings, to the next flower, and impregnating the pistil of it. If all the bees were to be destroyed, I for one, if a farmer, would rejoice to see that they were an advantage. This prejudice against bees seems to me has no foundation, and I hope that the day is dawning when it will be done away with.

The meeting adjourned until the second Monday in November.

A COUNTY FAIR.

The Board of Managers of the Lancaster County Agricultural and Horticultural Society Fix upon Time and Place for Holding it—Committees Appointed.

The Board of Managers of the Lancaster County Agricultural and Horticultural Society met Monday, August 11, in their room in the City Hall, for the purpose of discussing the subject of holding a county fair. The officers of the society constitute the Board of Managers and are as follows, all of whom were present: President, George Cooper, Bird's Range; Vice Presidents, Henry M. Engle, Marietta, and Jacob B. Garber, Columbia; Recording Secretary, Jos. F. Witmer, Paradise; Corresponding Secretary, J. Miller, Litzitz; Treasurer, Levi W. Groff, West Earl township; Managers, Martin D. Kendig, Manor township; William H. Brosius, Drummer township; Casper Hiller, Conestoga township; John G. Linville, Gap; and Israel L. Landis, Lancaster.

On motion, the meeting adjourned Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 10, 11 and 12, as the days upon which to hold their exhibition, and it will be held in the Northern Market House, on North Queen street.

Committees.

The President announced the following committees, which were unanimously approved:

Committee of Arrangement—Daniel Smech, city; S. P. Zhy, city; Israel L. Landis, city; Ephraim Hoover, city.

On trials—Henry M. Engle, Marietta.

On Cereals—Jno. C. Liville, Gap P. O.

On Flowers—Martin D. Kendig, Creswell; and Mrs. Dr. Wilson, Lancaster.

On Vegetables—Isaac Hiller, Conestoga Centre.

On Apiary—Peter S. Reist, Litzitz.

On Poultry—Wm. J. Kafroth, West Earl.

On Domestic Productions—Mrs. Calvin Cooper, Bird's Range.

On Live Stock Products—Johnson Miller, Litzitz.

On Light Farm Implements—C. M. Hostetter, May P. O.

On Fire Arts, etc.—Wm. H. Brosius, Liberty Square.

On Musical Instruments—Ephraim Hoover, Lancaster.

On Agricultural Miscellany—Levi S. Reist, Oregon.

The committee have power to appoint colleagues if they deem it necessary.

All who desire to become exhibitors will make application to the departments in their line of articles, or to the Committee of Arrangement.

Further details will be found in posters, advertisements and a premium list, which will be issued in due time.

POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society at Litzitz.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lancaster County Poultry Society was held at the Litzitz Springs Hotel, on Tuesday evening, August 12. The committee was organized by electing Rev. D. C. Tobias chairman and Jacob H. Lichty secretary. The object of the meeting was to make suitable arrangements for the holding of a "Poultry Exhibition," by the society, in Lancaster, some time in December or January next. After a full discussion of the subject it was thought that a successful exhibition could be given, and the committee will at the next meeting of the society—the first Monday in September—submit a report embracing the necessary regulations to be made.

It is hoped that interested in breeding poultry and pigeons will assist in making this, their first exhibition, a perfect success. The committee adjourned to meet in the room of the society, in Lancaster, on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at 10½ A. M.

AGRICULTURE.

Weeds and Hay Fever.

It would seem that the general advantage of thorough cultivation ought to be sufficient inducement to incite the tiller of the soil to vigorous efforts for the suppression of weeds. It is manifest to the commonest observer that, if we expect remunerating crops, we must not leave them to contend with hosts of rival enemies in the soil, and yet this is often the case, and, in fact, is the cause, throughout the country. Not only are noxious weeds allowed to grow among the crops, but often after the crops are removed whole fields are abandoned to weeds of almost every description, as also are roadsides. These are fruitful sources, and their flowering is the most prolific until late in autumn, filling the atmosphere with the impalpable dust of their pollen, irritating and inflaming the delicate organs of the human system in various ways. It is sometimes called hay fever. The hay season, however, is short, and ought to be much shorter if farmers would have hay of the best quality; and is harmless as compared with the tediousness of the weed-flowering season, during which the eye, the mucous membrane of the nostrils, the bronchial and nasal parts violently excited, causing extreme and protracted intervals of sneezing, and copious discharges of watery fluids from the nose. This is often continued for months, until frosts destroy these troublesome interlopers. In my daily intercourse I meet with persons who are severely afflicted with this troublesome nuisance, and entirely ignorant of the cause, being under apprehensions that it proceeds from some radical defect in their organization, and seriously contemplating the necessity of seeking a more genial climate. In truth, I am half inclined to think that many times those complaints called influenza have been treated by medical men without suspending their common origin.

These disagreeable events, arising from negligent husbandry, are far more prevalent when the late summer and the first of the north-east winds, as was the case during the past year. Frequently showers and rain storms carry the pollen to the ground, where the greater part remains. The presence of the pollen in the atmosphere, and the enjoyment of the pleasures of rural life during the autumnal months when a walk through the fields, or a stroll in the silent woods amid the shadowy lights and falling leaves, is especially enjoyed by contemplative minds.

Cutting and Curing Hay.

Though it is too late for the present season to talk upon this subject, we feel inclined to take up a small space in relation to it by merely referring to a discussion at a meeting of farmers who attend the Lancaster fair, and who are so numerous in this city, and who have formed themselves into a club to discuss matters and things connected with their pursuit, holding their meetings monthly in the room of the Agricultural Society. These meetings were well attended and comprised among its members a great deal of intelligence; but, as in all meetings of farmers, there is seldom an agreement of views on any question formally introduced.

At the last meeting the question of cutting and