

of honey, thereby increasing our home market, is a matter deserving the attention of this association quite as much as teaching those who wish to keep bees how to care for them. The programme which is placed before you will provide an opportunity for each one present to contribute something to our store of bee knowledge. I hope that the friends who looked forward after last year's meeting, with the expectation that our meetings in the future would be less turbulent and more harmonious and useful, will not be disappointed. I thank you for the confidence placed in me a year ago in elevating me to the position I now occupy, and I trust you will assist me in making these meetings both pleasant and useful during the few hours I shall remain in my present position. (Applause.)

Mr. R. F. Holtermann—I am sure that we have listened with pleasure to the address of our president; I do not think there is very much that any of us can take exception to, and I would move that the address of the president be filed, and that it be incorporated in the report of these proceedings, after which there are one or two remarks that I will have to make in regard to it.

Mr. F. A. Gemmell—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

First vice-president, Mr. W. B. Holmes, put the motion, which was declared carried by a rising vote.

Mr. R. F. Holtermann—There was a question which was brought up at the last annual meeting by Dr. MacFarlane, of the Department of Inland Revenue, and that is in regard to the percentage of water to be found in honey. I think if I am a correct judge of the views of the members of this association and bee-keepers at large that that was a question of very vital importance to the bee-keeping industry. In travelling about the country I find that there is altogether too much honey which has been taken from the hive at a time when it is not properly ripened and when it has too large a percentage of water. You remember last year a resolution was passed asking the Department of Inland Revenue to pass some regulation after consulting with the Executive Committee in regard to that percentage of water.

Now, we know that if honey is taken from the hive before it is properly ripened or before a proper percentage of moisture has been taken from it, the nectar which turns into honey has not that flavor which is pleasing to the palate and which is absolutely necessary it should have if we are going to develop our markets to

the highest possible degree. We are living in a section of country which has perhaps been educated to a greater extent upon this subject than other portions of the Dominion. You must remember that this is now a Dominion matter, and if we ask the Dominion Government to do a certain thing it will cover the entire Dominion. When you go to other portions of the country, and I make special reference to the city of Ottawa, which I have been visiting for several years for the Gookl, Shapley & Muir Co., if you go into the stores of the city of Ottawa fall after fall you find that the honey put upon the market by local men there, is largely put up in pickle bottles and corked, and all you have to do is to turn that bottle upside down to see that it is exceedingly thin and that there is a large percentage of water in it, and when the consumer puts it upon the table the result is that he is not pleased with the honey as he should be. Many are not aware as to what the trouble is with that honey and the result is that that consumption of honey is curtailed by putting such an article upon the market, and these men who put their honey upon the market before it is properly ripened are simply feeding and living upon the good reputation which the better article has gained throughout the Dominion.

Another unfair element is that the price of honey is reduced by putting such an article upon the market; it costs more and is a greater expense to produce an article with a heavy specific gravity. I do not think that there are any two views upon that question. Now, it appears to me it is not so exceedingly difficult. When I first brought this question up in the department of Inland Revenue, Sir Henry Joly was there and the Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue and Dr. MacFarlane, and they seemed to think that it was quite possible to do that, and if we knew what we wanted, they would be prepared to pass an Order in Council giving us what we wished. It would be no expense. We do not propose going to the expense of going to the House, it is simply passing an Order-in-Council giving us the Act. Let us ask for only a certain percentage of water to be found in honey, let us put that down upon a safe basis, let us fix a limit as we find that it is workable, and, if it is desirable, we can increase that percentage and the tendency will be to educate the bee-keepers in regard to that fact, and if the consumer can be taught to judge honey better in that respect, and if the producer can also be better educated in that direction, we