

branch of agriculture should be represented at the meeting in question. So the Dairy Fruit Growers and Bee-keepers Associations were duly invited to send one or more delegates. The invitation was not received prior to our meeting in Owen Sound. Hence the executive committee of the O.B.K.A. was consulted by correspondence, and it was agreed that the president and vice-president should be requested to represent the organization at the Institute, which they accordingly did. Mr. Emigh and I attended the sessions faithfully most of the three days during which they were held. We were cordially welcomed by the officers of the Institute, and bee-keeping was duly recognised as "a branch of agriculture."

There was a great press of business, and the O.B.K.A. did not get a hearing until the second session of the third day. By the time our turn came, Mr. Emigh had found it necessary to take the train for home, so that I was left as delegate sole. I endeavored as briefly as possible to state the objects and position of the O.B.K.A. making prominent the fact that we regarded bee-keeping as one of the industries of the farm, and sought mainly to promote it as such. I also explained that the government had recognized our legitimate agricultural status, by an act of incorporation, and an annual grant of \$500. I also endeavored to show the possibilities of bee-keeping as an adjunct to the farm and large addition that might be made to the national revenue, if farmers would learn how to keep bees intelligently and profitably. I did not forget to state how Canada had figured at the Colonial and Indian exhibition, and that our honey had made its way into the British market side by side with our beef, cheese and other products. Mr. Allan Pringle, who was present, followed up my address with a few appropriate observations. The meeting listened very respectfully and attentively to both of us.

It was our intention to have tried to induce the Institute to take some action on excessive railroad charges in freighting bees and honey, but this design was frustrated. Mr. Allan, of Goderich, the noted fruit grower, had promised a paper on "Ocean and Railroad Freights," and was down on the program for that duty. We expected to bring the matter up in connection with his paper. But, unfortunately, Mr. Allan did not put in an appearance. His part was postponed from day to day in hope that he would be on hand. It was the fog end of the meeting when our turn to speak came, and though the attendance was nearly as large as it had been at any time, things were being rushed through by a time table, adjournment having

been decided on by a certain hour. It was useless under those circumstances, to attempt the introduction of new business which would have required discussion, reference to the committee on legislation, and a report prior to taking action.

The presence of a delegate from the O.B.K.A. and the addresses made on behalf of the honey interest were the means of bringing our industry conspicuously before the finest representative body of practical farmers ever convened in the Province of Ontario, so that we hope the efforts made will not be altogether without fruit in days to come.

WM. F. CLARKE,  
Pres. O.B.K.A.

Guelph, Feb. 16th, 1889.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### The Farmers' Institutes and Bee-Culture.

**B**EING in attendance at the Annual Convention of the Central Farmers' Institute in Toronto a week or two ago

I was pleased to meet delegates there from the O.B.K.A., viz., President Clarke and Vice-President Emigh. I regretted, however, that the convention was so crowded with its own legitimate work (much of it remaining unfinished) that there was but little time to listen to the bee-keepers. However, friend Clarke did get an opportunity the last day and last session to speak for them, and managed to get a good deal out in a short time. Friend Emigh was not present, and through the intercession of friend Clarke your humble servant got the privilege of speaking just three minutes, in behalf of our favorite industry. This was more than we could reasonably expect under the circumstances, and was quite long enough to give to a man whom nature never fitted with a tongue limber enough for that special business. And although the Lennox Farmers' Institute were well aware of that fact, they, nevertheless, insisted on sending him there as a delegate. He managed, however, to get his duty done fairly well without much tongue) as brother Clarke can witness) and actually succeeded in getting in a little extra work.

There are 71 Farmers' Institutes in Ontario, all of them represented at the Toronto Convention. Now, it so happened that every one of these Institutes was muzzled previous to that Convention—that is, they were not at liberty to discuss certain economic questions of vital interest to them, and all because the political parties had taken hold of these questions each