

Annual Meeting

Ontario Bee keepers Association

The President—I will now call upon another American visitor to address the Convention, Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson. He may be able to give us his reasons for awarding the prizes so and so at the Honey Show.

Mr. Hutchinson (Michigan)—It seems to me most of the exhibits were pretty good, and I have very little criticism to make. There was one point I might mention, and that is the idea of simplicity. I think, perhaps, occasionally an exhibitor errs in making too elaborate an exhibit. For instance, he makes a pyramid, and then scatters some flowers around the table, and then puts on flags. It makes a person think of an over-dressed woman. Now, in a picture we try to bring out one idea, and everything else centers upon that one idea, so that the mind will not wander from one point to another. Let it be just as simple as possible. We might put up a pyramid with nothing but the plain bottles or glasses—no trimmings, in other words. I would say that the watchword should be "Simplicity" in making those exhibits. Perhaps there were only one or two exhibits that came under that head. What we want in judging is a score card. You have five or ten bottles of honey to pass upon, and you take up one and look at it, and it is a very fine color. Then you come to another and dip your spoon into it, and you find the flavor is good. But where the color is off the flavor may be better. Then a good colored one will have a very poor body, and so a person might go over them without coming to any conclusion, unless he had something

like a score-card to register the points.

I suppose about 50 points out of the 100 would be for quality, and we test those different honeys, and get as near as we can to the best, and then we mark it down, giving them the number of points. Then we take up the question of color. As to the best color, it would be the clearest and whitest. That might be put in at 30 points, and in that way you don't know until the end of the judging who is going to get the prizes. Then as to the body. In some, bubbles will rise very quickly and others very slowly. Take the one that comes up the slowest, that one has the greatest body, and we give that the most number of body points. Then, when you get through, you figure up all the points, and the man who gets the most points gets the premium, and so on down. In that way you can satisfy yourself. Some one will say, "Why, my honey is the better flavor," and another says, "My honey has the best body," and if there is no method of judging one does not know why the other gets the prize. If we had these score cards we could give each exhibitor a card showing how his honey stood on all the different points, and then he could see why he failed. He could see where his honey lacked, and in that way there would be the educational feature, and there would be satisfaction. And more, the judges would not have to answer any questions, because the score cards would show it. Of course you must have a scale of points. And it is the same way with the comb honey. There is, for instance, the completeness of filling. I do not say how many points should be given but perhaps 50 out of 100 for complete filling. Then there would be the scale running down the same way. Then there would be the completeness of capping and the evenness of the comb

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