

dered by the President.

Mr. Evans—I am very glad to hear the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and to notice the frame of mind in which he comes to us. He says he comes to learn, and I would like to say to him I know of no place in the world where he would be more likely to learn something than here. I think it would be a good thing if more of the honorable members would go out and try to learn something from people who are capable of teaching them, and I am sure that if the hon. gentleman stays with us for some time and listens to the advice and information that some of the bee-keepers are capable of imparting he will go away wiser than when he came. He complains that the bee-keepers are not sufficiently aggressive. What we lack in that respect is made up by our bees. He would find them aggressive enough if he came to some of our apiaries in the summer-time. The bee-keeping industry is one of very great importance. It is not merely the gathering of honey and making of money for the bee-keepers; it is important for the fruit-grower, the horticulturalist and the farmer. It is of enormous importance in fertilization and helps to bring into this country millions of dollars every year. We have in Ontario the best fruit-growing country on the face of the earth. We grow the best apples and pears and plums. I trust the government will in future help us along more than they have in the past. The amount we have received has not been large, and we have not been able to accomplish very much with it.

There is no question but that foul brood is a serious matter, and I think there is lots of room for inspectors, and I think this province could keep three or four busy, and there would not be as much expense as at present. I am quite satisfied Mr. McEvoy has

done good work in the past and has inaugurated the best system of curing foul brood on the face of the earth. They are coming to his system in all countries. We want men who can get over the province, and I think it would be more economical to have four or five inspectors. I think if the Hon. Minister will take suggestions from this Association he will not make many mistakes. If the Association advises three or four inspectors he will be justified in following their advice. I take issue with any government telling people what they should do under all conditions, because I think the people know best themselves.

Mr. Holmes—I regret that there has been one statement made here that "the bee-keepers could steal honestly," and I hope the members present did not take it seriously. I think this Association has been highly favored on this occasion by having the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture for this province present with us. I think it is most gratifying that he comes to us with such words of encouragement. This organization is trying to make life sweeter, and he tells us that we have the co-operation of his department, and he tells us not to be backward, but to formulate our wishes, and when we approach his Department we will find the gates ajar and we are welcome to walk in. I think this is an inspiration to this Association, and we as an Association ought to show him that we appreciate the efforts he is making in our behalf and we are thankful to know that our struggles to make life sweeter have the co-operation of the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada (Applause.)

Mr. Holtermann—There was a point the Minister brought up in connection with the marketing of honey, and I have a resolution drafted that I hope

the Minister will have the dairymen have a joint sale of their products. Now this resolution Hon. Mr. Hanna is in charge of this Department that the bee-keepers have the same facilities for the sale of their products as have the provincial or any body of business together and legitimate products unitedly and that they should be treated as the dairymen. The resolution drafted by the Minister of Agriculture in connection with it I shall move at a later day.

Moved by Mr. Mr. Pettit, "That the Minister of Agriculture be requested to communicate from the Department of Agriculture now." A letter from the Department was then read as follows:

Toronto, Ontario
Secretary Ontario Association:
Dear Sir,—Under the Minister, I beg to bring for consideration and, if thought advisable, to lay before your next convention whereby we think this Department will be materially benefited. The Association and the interests of the bee-keepers are better served. We have found that the mutual advantage of the bee-keepers and other associations in the relationship of the Department of Inspection and Marketing of Honey is better served. You