

## Annual Convention

## Ontario Bee-keepers Association

Mr. Holtermann—There is a little matter of a good deal of importance I wish to bring to your notice. I am not an advocate of mere formal votes of thanks. I think there is a good deal of time wasted over that sort of thing sometimes. We understand that by the new arrangement suggested by the Department of Agriculture, and recommended by this association, Mr. William Couse will not be secretary any longer; for some time he has not been desirous of retaining that position. It is his own recommendation that Mr. Hodgett, or someone else in the Department be appointed secretary, and I think it will be contrary to our wish that he should leave the position that he has so long occupied without a very hearty vote of thanks on the part of our association. I want to say that I have known Mr. Couse for 25 years or more, and he is a man who in this position, or in any other will do that which he sincerely thinks is right. We may not always agree with him, but I believe he has served this association faithfully and well, and to the very best of his ability, and I would move a very hearty vote of thanks for the work he has done for this association in the past, and our regrets, so far as he is personally concerned, that he has withdrawn from the position. At the same time, I would say that I hope and believe that in the place in which the new secretary is situated he will be able to do work for the association which a private individual could not do, and which will be in the interests of the association.

Mr. Holmes—It is with deep regret that we learn of Mr. Couse's intention

to sever his connection with us as secretary of this association, and it is with great reluctance that we bow to his decision. It is with very great pleasure that I second the motion that the best thanks of this association be tendered to Mr. Couse for his valuable services.

The President—It is a pleasure to me to put that motion to you. I have, of course, had a good deal of experience under Mr. Couse. I started with him when I was 11 years old. I was a very good boy and did what I was told, for when he told me to clip the queens, I clipped everything in sight. I think that he loves this Association, and that he is sorry in one sense to give up the secretaryship. I believe if it had not been for that love he would have given up the position a number of years ago; his other duties are so numerous that he has been making a great sacrifice in doing the work. You might possibly have retained him, only he feels confident that the work can be done better in another way, and he still be serving the interests of this association. I therefor tender to Mr. Couse the vote of thanks moved by Mr. Holtermann and seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Couse—I really appreciate this. It was with reluctance that I accepted the position something over 21 years ago. I had been with Mr. D. A. Jones of Beeton three years, and I suppose I served him fairly well. He came to me at the convention in Toronto. (He usually called me Willie.) "Willie," he says, "we are just going to make you secretary." I replied: "I don't think so." "Well, you will be," says he. I answered, "I really don't want it. I don't feel that I can do it. I cannot do the position credit." "Well, never you mind," said he. "Do as I tell you and never mind the rest." He simply made me do it, and he threw the re-