

Eighteenth Annual Meeting

OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

THE eighteenth annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association was held at the Court House in the City of Hamilton on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 7th, 8th and 9th, 1897.

The president, Mr. J. K. Darling, called the meeting to order at 2 o'clock p. m.

The secretary, Mr. Wm. Couse, read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which, on motion, were confirmed as read, and signed by the president, after which the president, Mr. J. K. Darling, delivered the following address:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"Another season has passed by, and we are again met together to compare results and lay plans for the future. The past season has been a varied one, the bee-keepers in some localities securing a fairly good yield of first-class honey, while in others there was very little, and in some places none whatever of a first-class article stored by the little workers. In some sections there was a small flow of dark honey in the fall, and in others the bees secured barely enough for winter stores, and a good number of colonies have had to be fed. As a consequence prices are firm and the surplus of last year is likely to disappear before another season opens. As an association we can congratulate ourselves on making progress. Some years this advance is not as pronounced as at other times, yet "Onward!" is the word and we are living fairly up to it. If we take a statement made by the President of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario, at their annual meeting held in Brockville last January, and compare our work with theirs, we will have no cause to feel disheartened. After referring to the vast amount of butter and cheese which Ontario exports to England, he says, 'Now, how has this been brought about? In the first place by organizing a dairymen's convention at Ingersoll thirty years ago this spring, with the motto of 'Progress.' For the first fourteen years all that the association did was to hold conventions, to teach cheese and butter-making while attending, and holding of

cheese shows.' Surely our record is as good as that, and, while we cannot hope to accomplish as much as the dairymen can accomplish, or to increase the industry of bee-keeping to the magnitude of the butter and cheese trade, there is plenty of room for advancement. The work of the association must be mainly along the line of education, and I think we ought to begin at once to push that branch of our work with more vigor than we have ever done in the past. It is that kind of work that has placed the dairy interest of the Dominion in the front rank as it stands to-day.

'There have been no complaints of adulteration during the past year, owing no doubt to the efficient work done in the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa; and it is my opinion that, with the law as it is now, and a proper watchfulness on the part of honey-producers, we will not have much trouble with adulterated honey. It is a matter upon which we can congratulate ourselves that not one of the adulterated samples was traced to a bee-keeper, and that most of the samples which were adulterated with glucose were traced directly or indirectly to one firm in Montreal, and further that most of the adulterated samples secured were secured within a radius of that city. This is a matter that ought to be proclaimed from one end of the Dominion to the other, thus allaying the distrust that has arisen regarding pure honey. Only one sample in fifteen and that in a limited area. Regarding a standard for the specific gravity of honey, we are very much at a loss as yet how to proceed. The fact that the percentage of water in the samples analyzed at Ottawa ranged all the way from 12 to 33 per cent. would show at once that much more must be done before any definite conclusion can be reached. This work we now have before us. The foul-brood inspector's report will be laid before you, and if it is taken up and discussed by this meeting you will learn that there is a large amount of association work in that field. The educating of the masses in regard to the use