

course open to me in order to accomplish this work, was to proceed to Ottawa, which I did, hoping to kill two birds at once by attending to the matter in question and also the other matter of foul brood experiments with Prof. Saunders. The result as to the former was all we could desire. After laying the whole matter before the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. John Lowe, Deputy Minister, it was decided that an order in council would meet our case, instead of an amendment to the Contagious Diseases Act. These gentlemen assured me that they would procure the passage of such order in Council whenever the *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* or its representative deemed it necessary, and communicated the fact to them—at the same time instructing them definitely as to what was wanted in the matter of checking the importation of bees etc., or prohibiting them altogether, or quarantining them. This is all we could ask or expect; and the Association now stands in a position to protect itself and Canadian bee-keepers from that danger whenever necessary. I think I may safely say that this Association will take no unfriendly action against our neighbors across the lakes. Whatever may be done will be done solely as a necessity in the direction of self-preservation and self-protection.

I was also sent by this society last year as your delegate to the *Central Farmers' Institute*, whose annual meeting in Toronto in February last I accordingly attended. I prepared and read a paper there on "Bee Culture in Ontario," for which your delegate received a hearty vote of thanks from the Convention. Your delegate was also deluged with questions at the conclusion of the paper on this and that in bee-culture. These he endeavored to answer to the full satisfaction of the meeting, which manifested a lively interest in our favorite pursuit. The paper is as follows: (which I trust you will kindly take as read, as it will perhaps appear in our next annual report with which you will be supplied.)

BEE CULTURE IN ONTARIO.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—My business here is to represent the *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* as their delegate to this farmers' convention. Were I merely an apiarian specialist I might feel a little out of place here, but being a farmer as well, and a working one, I ought to feel at home amongst farmers. I shall not, however, on that account take advantage on this occasion to bore you with a long essay.

The *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* is a legally incorporated body with a membership ranging from three to four hundred, and has a

number of local societies in affiliation, to each one of which the parent society makes an annual grant for the encouragement and promotion of the industry. The bee keepers of Ontario number some tens of thousands and they produce annually nearly half a million pounds of honey. This province of Ontario in its honey yielding capabilities, as in many other respects, stands second to none in the world. Nor is apiculture in Ontario, either as a science or art, behind that of any other country. My own opinion is that she takes the lead in taxing the "busy little bee" for all it is worth—the same as she herself is taxed for more than she is worth, or at any rate more than she can pay and live decently.

The most formidable enemy bee-culture has to day to contend with throughout the world is the disease known as foul-brood, caused like so many human diseases, as science has disclosed, by a microbe which destroys the young brood. Ontario, I may say, has taken the lead of other countries in wise measures and vigorous action for the extermination of this pest as we have now in our provincial statutes an "Act for the suppression of foul brood among bees," recently passed, which is, without doubt, the best of its kind in the world. Under its provisions we shall be able speedily to overcome this greatest enemy to bee-culture.

In this as well as in other directions the *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* is doing a most useful work in developing bee culture in this province, thus placing on our tables a wholesome, palatable, and cheap food—not merely a luxury, for there is more nutriment in 1 lb. of honey than 5 lbs. of fat pork. Our association is also doing its part in upholding the credit of Canada abroad as a producer. At the Indian and Colonial Exhibition held in London three or four years ago *Ontario Bee Keepers* exhibited many tons of the finest honey in the world and took the palm in the public eye and popular taste against all competitors. Our fields and forests yield abundantly of the choicest nectar nature produces any where.

I have always thought that bee-culture was a proper and legitimate part of agriculture, and, consistently with that opinion, I have always kept bees on the farm, and am, therefore, very well acquainted with the little insects through an experience of a quarter of a century. My stock of bees from year to year has ranged from ten to one hundred and fifty colonies, and my crop of honey from one hundred to ten thousand pounds. The bees I regard as a part of the live stock and bee culture a proper part of farm work, and I may say, with me, the most profit-