

read will be discussed in a friendly way, so that they will not only forward the industry, but add to the friendly feelings existing among bee-keepers. I again extend a hearty welcome to our visitors, and hope you will spend a pleasant and profitable time at these meetings, so that you may remember with pleasure the Brant County Bee-keepers' convention.

Conditions of Bee-keeping in Brant District

[Opening Paper at Brant Convention, by Secretary W. J. Craig.]

In reporting of the condition of bee-keeping in the district I would merely take the Brant County Association as a basis of my statistics and conclusions. The number of colonies reported in our local Association is somewhat in the neighborhood of twelve hundred and fifty, full count, almost one-third more than a year ago. These twelve hundred we might estimate as being one-fourth of all the bees in the district—that is, within a radius of, say, twenty-five miles. I do not think we would overestimate the total number of colonies in the district at five thousand.

It would be rather a difficult matter to estimate the value of this property or the income from it, but we must conclude that it would represent quite a considerable sum could definite statistics be secured, as in live stock and other farm products. To estimate value, etc., from reports of our local Association would, of course, be out of the question. We naturally expect and find that the bee-keepers who unite themselves in associations are those who are in the business for what they can get out of it. They endeavor to give it the necessary time and thought and expenditure of money to make it pay them, just as they would any other legitimate business. They are anxious to learn and to put into practice the best ways and means, and for this purpose keep themselves in touch with the best in literature and association. For this reason it should be our object as

bee-keepers to nurture local associations and to interest and unite every bee-keeper, whether extensive or limited, the owner of one colony or one hundred, for the education and elevation and best interests of the whole. The third, fourth and under-rate bee-keepers, as in every other business, is rather a detriment to the industry than otherwise.

The Provincial Bee-keepers' Association, by recent by-law, has magnanimously made it possible for members of affiliated local associations to obtain membership in the O.B.K.A. with all its advantages of convention reports, honey crop report, marketing advices, etc., single fee for the combined membership, the idea being to assist and to increase membership in local associations. The local association should really be the working part of the provincial.

Real live local associations would also simplify and reduce the cost of the working of the Foul Brood Act or any other Act that the Government might wish to enforce for the protection of the industry. As matters stand at present, there is too much taken for granted and too much expected from the inspectors. There are probably hundreds of colonies, little clusters of one and two and six and a dozen, scattered here and there throughout the country that we know nothing about. A local association properly organized, with something in the form of a directorate, might keep in touch with all the bee-keepers, large or small, in a county or district, so that an accessible record might be kept.

Speaking of the city of Brantford and immediate district, I believe I can safely say that foul brood is practically stamped out, except it might be lurking in one of those isolated cases unknown to us. It is under control in the district, and any cases that there may be are under the supervision of the inspectors.

We cannot speak too highly of the way we have been treated by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. They are assisting us in every way possible,

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K. A.

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