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## Annual Meeting

Twentieth Annual  
Meeting Bee-Keep-  
ers' Assoc., Ontario.

HELD AT  
TORONTO,  
DEC., 1899.

### Spring Management in the Apiary.

D. W. Helse, Bethesda.

On receiving notice from our worthy President some time ago that the executive committee had seen fit to place my name on the programme for a paper on "spring management," with the request that I at once endorse the action of the said committee, I replied saying, that while I thought very little of the subject assigned me, yet I would endeavor to have something to say upon it at this convention. My reason for saying that I thought very little of the subject was not because I considered it one of slight importance, but from the fact that it has within the last few years received considerable attention at conventions and through the different journals, and more particularly from the fact that the subject was so ably and thoroughly handled only a year ago at the city of Guelph by our esteemed friend, Mr. Sibbald. So while it would seem to be pretty well exhausted, yet perhaps after all there are always those in our ranks who would largely improve on their spring management, and with the thought

before me that "keeping everlastingly at anything will eventually bring success," I take encouragement, and will endeavor to briefly outline what I would consider "ideal" spring management" in my locality when bees are wintered on the summer stands.

The first step towards proper and successful spring management should be taken not later than the fifteenth of September of the fall previous (that is when there is no fall flow) by contracting the brood chamber with a division board to a size accommodating the strength of the colony, which may be from four to seven combs. The remaining combs in the space so contracted, whatever the number may be, should contain not alone what we might consider was sufficient stores, but a supply that we are absolutely certain will be an abundance to carry the colony safely, not only through the winter, but right up to the time of fruit bloom. By preparing the stocks in this way the bee-keeper will have no occasion to open up the hives for examination until the weather is sufficiently warm that all danger of chilling brood or breaking the cluster will be reduced to a minimum. The first examination of bees in the spring should not be made until some calm day when the thermometer will register seventy degrees or more in the shade, and after the bees have been permitted for some days to gather both water