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Annual Meeting

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

HELD AT
TORONTO,
DEC., 1899. . .

Our Own and Foreign Markets for Honey.

Address by Prof. J. W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa, before Ontario Bee-Keepers Convention.

I have to crave your indulgence because I do not know the first thing about bees or bee-keepers except that since 1886 I have had an opinion that bee-keepers were men who always got their own way about things they wanted. This is the one association with which I have had least to do of all the associations of men in Canada who are working for the development of our natural industries, so I came here to learn than to give you information. I had hoped to be here during the whole of the convention, but I was happily for myself some business kept me at home, and I had to go to the Fruit Growers' Convention this morning. However, I must say this that I recognize the bee-keepers of Ontario have been doing capital work, not merely for the commerce in honey products, but for the people of Ontario who have been improving their farms through growing clover. This is outside your business, perhaps, but I know a good deal more about

clover than I know of bees. Then, I recognize this further, that one of the main means of improving the status of farming to-day is through the growing of clover crops. I need not detain you with a talk on farming, but I will mention one experiment conducted for thirty-two years with the growing of clover between grain crops, the average yield was 114 per cent. of grain more where clover went between the grain crops. That is the finding of thirty-two years experimental work in one of the fields of England. This is not a little thing; it is one of the big things of the Province to grow clover. It is not always possible to get the clover into blossom as pasture for bees, but many of the pastures in Ontario would have more food for bees of various kinds. You cannot grow clover seed without the fertilizing action of the bees on the blossom, because where clover plants have been screened in from bees the seeds don't form, because the germ is not fertilized by the pollen at the right time and the right way. I will speak a little this afternoon on the home and foreign markets for honey. I have watched the home markets a little bit, because I have to, in looking after the markets for agricultural products, and I learned this, that in Ontario and in other places in Canada there is a very large unsupplied market, a very large market that is not nearly met by the products that are in abundance in the country. I