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Canadian Bee-keeping

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READ AT THE BEDFORD CON-
VENTION OF QUEBEC FRUIT
GROWERS.

As a preface to this paper, I wish to lay stress on the fact that it is not addressed to bee-keepers. They have the Journals, the Bee-keepers conventions, and various other channels open to them for the discussion of questions interesting to the professional apiarist. To enter on such matters here, at a meeting of fruit growers, would be to appeal to the majority, at a risk of becoming wearisome to the majority of my auditors, so I have elected to write a missionary paper. However, in such a district as this, it cannot be altogether a case of breaking new ground; for, in the country, in this province, almost everyone keeps a few bees, or, if they do not, at least they are accustomed to see bees kept by their neighbors. At all events in my own county, driving along the fourteen or fifteen miles of high road between Rigaud and Vaudreuil, one sees the homes where a few hives

of bees are seen to be decidedly in the majority. I only wish that signs of intelligent bee-keeping were equally common. But alas! the old box hives, without frames, and with no sensible facilities either for storing or harvesting the honey crop, still predominate. Bees are sulphured to death in the Fall, and, apart from the honey used in the house, the only profit is a little dark colored, strained stuff, peddled around for what it will fetch.

However, things do move, if slowly; and I think that I see a few more framed hives on that route to-day than I saw eight years ago. Perhaps you in the townships are ahead of us in Vaudreuil: if, so, so much the better. But permit me to observe that the man who buys a frame hive for his bees, and stops there, has not done everything. If he continues to run his frame hive on the same principles on which he formerly ran his box-hive, he is in the position of the Irishman in the Sedan chair without a bottom; except for the look of the thing he might have saved his money.

Now this is the gentleman I want to catch: the man who has a few bees, no matter in what kind of hives, and doesn't take an interest in them.

His bees always make honey—some honey—which comes in very pleasantly for family use; and he really doesn't see why he shouldn't let well alone. Well, it is a commercial age, and here is a little com-