

Seventeenth Annual Meeting

of the

Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association

Held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at the City of Toronto,
December 8th, 9th and 10th, 1896.

(President's Address continued from page 1004.)

grasp the situation and work with the determination of the pioneers of advanced dairying. While all may not agree with this, we are at least safe in saying, that bee-keeping might take a very prominent position and become a very important branch of agriculture.

What has been done during the last 10 or 20 years in almost every branch of agriculture requiring intelligence, energy, application, and hope, could have been done, and can yet be done for bee-keeping. Neither we nor the people have been alive to the necessities and importance of the profession. If we have not storage problems to solve we have others of as great importance.

Ontario is at present the banner production province of the Dominion. Some will attribute this to greater enterprise on the part of its inhabitants, others to nature having been more lavish in her gifts, while still another class will attribute this to accident merely. But the important question for us to decide, is, what can be done for bee-keeping, and it is necessary that we consider the indications that point to its being an industry which is capable of development in our country, and further that we urge the importance of being "up and going."

Bee-keeping in Ontario (and my remarks apply to many other parts of the Dominion) is an industry for which our country is naturally adapted; the farther north you go the better the quality of honey obtained, provided that blossoms will distil in sufficiently large quantities to pay the bee-keeper. I am not asking you for the world to take the statement of the Association in this matter, but, I ask you to examine the statement of disinterested judges and record of Ontario honey where has been exhibited, side by side with honey from other parts of the world.

We have chosen a profession in which the gates to success can only be opened by intelligence, experience, and judicious application, and we in this respect have chosen wisely, leaving the fields of keener competition to countries less fortunate than ourselves in this respect. Again, ours is a profession that creates wealth. The honey crop displaces no other crop on the farm, and further the primary object of the existence of the honey-bee is not to gather honey, but to assist by the distribution of pollen, the cross fertilization of plant life, the honey bee is of the greatest value to the fruit grower, and all that bee-keepers ask in return from the fruit grower is a little nectar from the flowers in his orchard and field, and the firm and kindly grasp of his hand acknowledging the common interest and common benefits. I have not spoken thus far of the great, and at present economic, value of honey as a food. This is generally conceded and attested to by holy writ. At the present price, honey, is no longer a luxury, but is accessible to all. The possibility to development lies in various directions. When we consider the chances of bee keeping growing in importance, and we have as a guide the example of countries by nature, and in some cases by cultivation, less richly endowed than our own. Take Germany, for instance, the last statistics give the number of colonies kept as 1,910,000; the annual production of honey 44,800,000 pounds; Spain, 1,090,000 colonies, and annual production of honey 42,500,000 pounds; France, 950,000 colonies, and the annual production, 22,500,000 pounds, and European production of honey, 85,000,000 tons, wax, 15,000,000 pounds, and yet we find such countries as Britain, Germany and France, importing honey from the N. American Continent. We know that England imports a large quantity of honey, as we have very strong evidence that those who have tried the American product prefer it to all others,