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## Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT  
NIAGARA FALLS,  
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

### MOVING BEES TO FALL PASTURES."

Paper by Mr. R. H. Smith St. Thomas.

In many of the best honey-producing districts of Ontario the main crop of light honey is gathered from white and alsike clover and the linden or basswood trees. In my locality the clover yields from about June 18 to sometime in July, depending upon the condition of the weather. About July 15th, if the season is favorable, the linden commences to bloom, and bees start to work on it, and in some seasons gather a lot of honey from this source. Unfortunately it is very uncertain, as in the season just past. I yielded honey only a few days, and then very little. Brood chambers at this time crowded with bees in brood in all stages and with very little honey; what surplus they may have gathered will be in the supers, and in stories, as is often the case. If all the clover honey is taken and the linden fails, the bees are in a starving condition by August 1st. Of course the wise bee-keeper should have provided for such a contingency by leaving some of the

honey, but I have seen apiaries where this was not done, and the bees have starved to death in August. In some localities if there are sufficient rain falls there may be some sweet clover, catnip, etc., to keep the bees alive, but for a number of years in succession we have had dry summers with the result that no pasturage in the latter part of July and August was available, and when there is no honey being gathered by the bees the queen stops laying, consequently all the bees are old when the winter commences, and that we believe is one of the main reasons for bees dying in such numbers in winter and early spring. A great deal of this loss may be prevented in some seasons by sowing buckwheat, but where there are many colonies the average bee-keeper may not be able to sow enough to have a succession of bloom, or as it sometimes happens, there may be a large acreage in bloom at one time, but owing to unfavorable weather, it may not yield honey. Some of you may be wondering what all this has to do with moving bees. In my own case there is no buckwheat sown within reach of any of our three apiaries, but about eighteen or twenty miles east nearly every farmer will have a field of buckwheat from five to ten acres, and as some farmers sow it early it gives a succession of bloom from about August 1st to September 15th, while every patch may

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