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ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The president called upon Mr. Craig to read his paper on "The Influence of Bee Journals."

Mr. Craig—The subject that has been assigned to me is "The Influence of the Journals." I am sorry that Mr. R. Root is not here to take up this subject with me, as Mr. Root is one who has had much experience with the journals and has made a success of that line of work.

THE INFLUENCE OF BEE JOURNALS.

(By W. J. Craig.)

Considering the subject of the influence of Bee Journals broadly, we may rightly apply much of what has been said, and can be said of the influence of current literature generally. We live in an age of literature, an age when people read a great deal and think a great deal, and whether in the form of newspaper, magazine, book or pamphlet, such reading must necessarily have a large influence over the individual and community, in the formation of opinion, the moulding of character and the regulation of action. The books and journals have taken a distinctive place among the literatures of the world. From recent sta-

tics we find that there are over 80 magazines devoted exclusively to bee-keeping, France leads the way with 19, Germany 11, Russia 9, Belgium 9, United States 7, Austria 6, Italy 3, England, Spain, Algiers and Australia two each, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Roumania, the Netherlands, Ireland and Canada one each. These magazines must as a matter of course, have an effect upon the bee-keeping of the many thousands of readers they represent; all of them advocating better bee-keeping, better systems of management, better marketing, presenting new theories, reporting new discoveries and inventions, vieing with each other in original matter from the best authorities, and in carefully selected matter from the most reliable sources, standing up for the right and exposing and denouncing the fraudulent and the wrong. All this can truly be said of present day bee journals. They are, in brief, doing all that they possibly can for the furtherance and development of the bee-keeping industry. This statement may, no doubt, be questioned by those that consider the motive of the bee journal always a selfish one, and that it exists merely for the sake of direct gain to the publisher, or a desirable adjunct to his business. Such a view is narrow, mean and selfish in itself. None of the journals we know of are making a fortune; in fact