

maker, I cannot speak like the doctor, but I would just like to say that during my connection with the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association I have found our hon. minister always very willing to do anything he could to advance the interest of bee keepers and he has been very willing to advance the bee keepers' institutes, and I think it is nothing but right that a hearty vote of thanks should be tendered to the hon. minister of the Government for what he has done for us. I do not think there is any country in the world where anything more has been done for the bee-keepers than in Ontario.

The Chairman—Ladies and Gentlemen—I am sure we are very much pleased with the address of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the reply of Dr. Mason and Mr. Gemmell. I must confess that I always feel a little nervous when I get a company of distinguished men around me. I cannot express myself as well as I would like to do. You must take the will for the deed. I now take great pleasure in introducing Dr. Mills of the Ontario Agricultural College.

James Mills, M. A., L. L. D., President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Ont.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am pleased to meet so many of the representatives of the North American Bee-keepers' Association. I have to confess to you this evening that I did not come prepared to deliver a formal address but rather to unite with the others in welcoming the representatives of this great association. When I was invited to be present I was told that the Hon. Mr. Dryden, the Minister of Agriculture, would deliver an address and I would be expected to make just a few remarks. I shall comply with the suggestion thus made and state briefly what little I have to say. First of all, I may say to you that I bring greetings from the Ontario Agricultural College, which is in Guelph, 50 miles west of this city. We speak of that as the Royal City and, in some respects, it is the most important part of the province. I am not going off on any line of boastfulness, but I simply bring greetings from the officers of the Ontario Agricultural College to the North American Bee-keepers' Association, and we say to you that we are interested in the work which you are doing. I must say that personally I sympathize with you in your efforts to increase the production of good honey all over this continent of America. I could not begin, if I would, to enumerate the many achievements of this association, but it has struck me that good work has been achieved by the association in many

particulars, but especially in the following: First, in impressing upon farmers and others throughout this country the importance of bee-keeping as a means of supplementing slender incomes and of directly adding to the comforts of life; secondly, in the introduction of new and greatly improved appliances for the use of bee-keepers thereby reducing the labor and increasing the yield from year to year; thirdly, in the legislation which this association has secured to prevent the spread of disease in our apiaries. These are services which deserve recognition from all who are interested in the welfare of either producers or consumers in this country. Now, during the short time at my disposal this evening, I may say a word about bee-keeping in relation to agriculture or farming. I am aware that bee-keeping is not confined to farmers, but I know merchants, mechanics and professional men, and men of leisure as I hope many of you are, keep bees, and some of the most successful bee-keepers are to be found in one or the other of these classes which I have named, but, I think I would be correct in saying after all, that the great bulk of our honey comes from the farm and that to the farmers, perhaps, more than any other class of people, the work of your Association is of interest and importance.

Now, a short time ago, in thinking over the circumstances and conditions of different classes of people in this country and elsewhere, the thought occurred to me that success in farming, more than any other occupation, depended on a number of uncertain and uncontrollable conditions or circumstances. The mechanic has work, and if it is done in a workmanlike manner, he is almost sure to receive remuneration for his labor. If a merchant proceeds on business principles and attends to his business, a fair share of trade is the only thing necessary to insure his success, and in professions, in law, for instance, in medicine, teaching, journalism, and so on, if a man has the requisite physical, mental, moral and educational equipment. He rarely fails to secure a fair, if not a liberal, compensation for the work done in the line of his occupation. With the farmer the case is quite different. He may be in every respect a first-class man; he may have every possible equipment for his work, and he may do his work at the best time and in the best manner possible, and after all have no return for his labor. Have you not seen that? Success in farming depends not only in the way in which the farmer does his work, but on the temperature from day to day, on the heat, the cold, the frost, upon the sunshine and the shade, upon the rain