

The Ontario Convention.

—By JAMES J. HURLEY.

I have had the pleasure of attending my first bee-keepers' convention.

Arriving in Guelph about three o'clock Wednesday afternoon after a long and tiresome ride in a way-freight, I proceeded to refresh the inner man that had grown gaunt and hungry. On my way to the city hall I had an opportunity to admire the wide and park-like setting of Guelph's business streets, and the general appearance of solidity that characterizes its business houses. The city hall is a very creditable structure and stands in the centre of what would be a very pretty park in summer time. It appeared to me, however, that, owing to its proximity to the railway and the station house, it seemed very like an adjunct to both. Arriving at the hall, I soon found my friends, the bee-keepers, ensconced in the council chamber, deeply absorbed in matters sweet. Unfortunately for my juvenile bee knowledge, the convention was engaged in the election of officers, and I regretted very much that the whole afternoon should have been devoted to this work. However, the convention chose a good staff of officers, who will doubtless give good satisfaction during their term. During the election of officers a pause was made for the purpose of hearing a few remarks from Hon. John Dryden, Ontario's able Minister of Agriculture. He spoke very fittingly of the work being done by the bee-keepers of Ontario, and pointed out that every drop of honey gathered by each individual bee was an addition to the wealth of this country. His brief remarks were very much appreciated.

I was very much impressed with the personality of Mr. Hutchinson, Editor of the American Bee Keepers' Review. Possessing a splendid cast of face and magnificent physique, he strikes one as being a man of no inconsiderable power. Courteous and gentle in speech and action, he impresses you as being a man of considerable culture and intelligence. He is certainly well up in all matters of bee-dom. It is not surprising therefore that the Review is the excellent paper that it is. The writer had the pleasure of listening to a conversation between Mr. Hutchinson

and Prof. Harrison, Bacteriologist of the Agricultural College. It turned upon the question of foul brood, and revealed the possession of considerable knowledge by both gentlemen, particularly Prof. Harrison, upon that subject. The Prof. intimated that he would have a publication upon that subject before long.

I was pleased to meet an old friend in the person of Mr. Frith. Once upon a time in the little school in the village of Princeton, he made an honest endeavor to teach me the three R's; and upon occasion when he thought fit, to drive, with a well-worn ruler, a little good conduct and Canadian patriotism through the palm of my hand and other unmentionable parts. It was a rude shock, therefore, to my thusly acquired patriotism, to see Mr. Frith rise and move an amendment to a motion that "the convention do not take the Canadian Bee Journal, but the American Review instead." It was most unpatriotic and ungenerous. Fy upon you, Mr. Frith. Your eldest boy ought to place you across his knee and spank you well. Know you not the growing Canadianism of late years? The Review is a very fine paper, and ought to be in the hands of all who can afford to take it, but that is no reason why we should abandon our own publication. The Canadian Bee Journal will be good or bad, great or small, just in proportion to the support it receives from the bee-keepers of this country. In our hands depends the success or failure of any Canadian publication devoted to our interests. If we wish to have a home publication, we must give it our support. Publications of this sort cannot live on sympathy or wind.

The concert given in the Agricultural College hall on Wednesday evening to which the delegates were invited, was a very enjoyable affair. The singing of Mr. Harold Jarvis, of Detroit, an ex-student of the college, was a most delightful treat. Our good friend McEvoy, the foul brood inspector, was simply carried away. His ponderous hands came together in such ponderous claps as almost to dislocate the platform. He moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the bee-keepers at the close.

Enclosed please find my subscription to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for 1899. I could not very well get along without the Journal. GEO. F. BEACH.
Charlotte Co., New Brunswick.