

parliament and when very closely identified with the farming interests, he tried to give due prominence to this important branch of the farm. His own constituency which exports a large quantity of alsike clover seed, has many good bee-keepers, and an active local society, the Haldimand Bee Keepers' Association, the officers of which are at present three able bee-keepers: President, Jas. Armstrong, Cheapside; Vice-Pres., J. H. Best, Balmoral; Sec-Treas., E. C. Campbell, Cayuga. The latter gentleman is also editor and proprietor of the Haldimand Advocate, and his excellent clean weekly has always been at the service of the organization. The Haldimand Association has had at its convention Doctor Montague, and at one of these conventions this gentleman freely pledged himself to support the Pure Honey Bill in the House of Commons. and the pledge has been fully carried out.

We have reason to believe that it will be the policy of Doctor Montague to improve by education the quality of honey put upon the market by bee-keepers generally. While it is not applicable to our best bee-keepers, there are many who put an inferior comb and extracted honey upon the market. By raising the quality of honey the demand will be increased. He will also aim to develop the home and foreign market. The home, by drawing attention to the value of honey as a food, and by instructing the consumer as to the peculiarities of honey, and how it should be used and cared for. In the foreign market as well as in the home we will have the active assistance of Prof. James Robertson, who, it is proposed, shall be Commissioner of Agriculture. His great abilities and well-known energies which have so often in the past been directed for the benefit of his country will give bee keepers confidence in what he may do under the department of Agriculture. The following letter will show he is already thinking of bee-keepers.

OTTAWA, Dec. 20th. 95.

Dear Mr. Holtermann, - If the honey men seek an excellent opportunity for introducing honey in the British markets next

summer and autumn, it is possible that an opening might be found for the introduction of a small quantity through the depots which it is expected will be established in Great Britain for the distribution of dressed meats. How to combine the meat and the honey may be a difficult problem or riddle, but I hope it will be one with a more peaceful and delightful result than that which followed Samson's riddle as to how honey came to be evolved from meat

I am yours, very truly,
JAS. W. ROBERTSON,
Dairy Commissioner.

Since the above letter was written we have seen Prof. Robertson. He said he would make no absolute promise to bee-keepers. Something at present not seen might prevent the arrangement mentioned in his letter, but as far as we understand it, unless something at present not shown develops, the Government will introduce throughout Great Britain Canadian honey. The Ontario Bee keepers Association has also passed a resolution asking the Dominion Government to act along the lines indicated in the above.

It is also the intention of the Minister of Agriculture to try and devise better methods of bee-keeping. A first-class apiary is to be equipped, and the necessary appliances secured to conduct very careful tests in wintering bees; also experiments during spring and summer; in fact, to cover the entire year. It is to be hoped that no false economy will be practiced in the organization of this department, A few hundred dollars, more or less, is of small consequence as a tax upon the country. but it may add or take away hundreds of thousands of dollars from the annual crop of the country. What our creameries, cheese factories, dairy schools, the travelling dairy, etc., has done for dairying to make that business more profitable, can, by proper means, in a measure, be done for bee-keeping.

The mere fact of the above step being taken by the Minister, will, aside from what it may do, have the effect of putting bee-keeping on a better footing. It will help to raise it to the dignity to which it has a right—a profession, worthy of the best efforts of the best minds of the Agricultural class,