



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

VOL. VI, No. 23.

BEETON, ONT., MAR. 1, 1891

WHOLE No. 283

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSUED 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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GENERAL.

Bee Culture in Ontario.

THE following paper was read at the recent Convention of the *Permanent Central Farmers' Institute* in Toronto. It elicited quite a lengthy discussion, or rather a lengthy volley of questions which the author of the paper endeavored to answer to the satisfaction of the meeting.

A. P.

My business here is to represent the *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* as their delegate to this farmers' convention. Were I merely an apiarian specialist I might feel a little out of place here, but being a farmer as well, and a working one, I ought to feel at home amongst farmers. I shall not, however, on that account, take advantage of the occasion to bore you with a very long essay.

The *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* is a legally incorporated body with a membership ranging from three to four hundred, and has a number of local societies in affiliation to each one, of which the parent society makes an annual grant for the encouragement and promotion of the industry. The bee-keepers of Ontario number some tens of thousands, and they produce ann-

ually half a million pounds of honey. This province, in its honey yielding capabilities, as in many other respects, stands second to no country in the world. Nor is apiculture in Ontario, either as a science or art, behind that of any other country. My own opinion is that she takes the lead in taxing the "busy little bee" for all it is worth—the same as she herself is taxed for more than she is worth, or at any rate more than she can pay and live decently. The most formidable enemy bee-culture has to-day to contend with throughout the world is the disease known as *foul brood*, caused, like so many human diseases, as science has disclosed, by a microbe which destroys the young brood. Ontario, I may say, has taken the lead of other countries in wise measures and vigorous action for the extermination of this pest, as we have now in our provincial Statutes an "Act for the Suppression of Foul Brood among Bees," recently passed, which is, without doubt, the best of its kind in the world. Under its provisions we shall be able, speedily, to overcome this greatest enemy to bee culture. In this, as well as in other directions, the *Ontario Bee Keepers' Association* is doing a most useful work in developing bee-culture in this province, thus placing on our tables a wholesome, palatable and cheap food—not merely a luxury, for their is more nutriment in 10 cents worth of honey than in 50 cents worth of fat pork. Our Association is also doing its part in upholding the credit of Canada abroad as a producer. At the Indian and Colonial Exhibition held in London three or four years ago, Ontario bee keepers exhibited many tons of the finest honey in the world, and took the palm in the public eye and popular taste against all competitors. Our fields and