

## BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

LEADING APIARISTS OF LEEDS AND  
GRENVILLE MEET AND DISCUSS  
BEES AND HONEY.

The annual meeting of the Leeds and Greenville Beekeepers' Association was held at Brockville on Tuesday last. The attendance was not so large as was desirable, the unfavorable weather accounting in a measure for that, but the meeting was fairly representative and the papers were listened to attentively and discussed intelligently.

Letters of regret at their inability to be present were read from his honor Judge McDonald and Mr. G. S. Hough, the well-known apiarian instructor.

At the opening of the afternoon session an address of welcome to the convention was read by Mayor Culbert.

A convention of beekeepers has one marked characteristic: the members appear possessed of an ease and repose of manner that at once strikes the beholder and when they commence investigating and inquiring into the veriest minutiae of the domestic and industrial life of the bees, he might be excused for imagining himself in an assembly of entomological savants. A visitor will generally leave such a convention impressed with the idea that there is very little in bee-culture that the up-to-date bee man has not found out. But this is a wrong idea; the philosophical beekeeper (and the successful are all philosophers) will readily admit that there are hidden things in the nature and habits of the bee and in the most desirable conditions at home and abroad that no one has yet discovered. But the spirit of enquiry is abroad, and it is to diffuse a knowledge of the subject generally that the L. & G. B. K. A. met in Brockville last week.

The program was an attractive one, but it was marred by reason of absentees. However, as those unable to be present sent papers to be read, their absence was felt chiefly in the discussion that followed the reading of each paper. The criticisms were a marked and profitable feature of the days exercises.

Mr. M. B. Holmes, president, occupied the chair, and Mr. Fulford, secretary-treasurer, was present.

The president in his opening remarks indulged in a retrospective glance over the advancement made in the past ten years

and said: "What a wonderful change has taken place! Then it was a box containing a chaotic mass of honey in the comb; now it is a dozen or so of one-pound sections nicely finished by the bees themselves. Then it was "Strained Honey," a compound of nectar of flowers, pollen, grains of wax, etc.; now extracted honey is amber liquid fit to tempt the most fastidious taste. But that which is of most interest to the general public is this fact; that, because of modern improvements, honey has been so reduced in price that it is no longer a luxury seen only on the tables of the rich, but it is within the reach of all. And what do we see as a result? I think we may safely say that there is ten times as much honey consumed as there was ten years ago, and if the beekeepers of this country do their whole duty there is not a doubt that the consumption of honey will continue to increase at the same rate for the next ten years."

The president then defined the duty of beekeepers, the object of the Association and why all should endeavor to attend its conventions. The close of his admirable address was devoted to advocating the extension of bee-culture throughout the Dominion and its spread in these counties until they shall verily "flow with milk and honey."

The program that followed included papers by F. L. Moore, Addison; F. P. Clare, Rideau Centre; Allan Pringle, Selby Ont.; H. H. Reeve, M.D., Toledo; F. W. Fulford, Brockville.

Mr. Pringle, who was expected to be the principal speaker of the day, was unable to be present, and sent a paper that was universally voted to be the finest treatise on the subject of bee-culture yet delivered before the Association. It was read by Mr. Holmes. We regret that we not space to give it in full, but will briefly summarise it. His subject was "Beekeeping in Ontario: Its Prospects, Possibilities, etc." As to present status of beekeeping, he said that the excellent record achieved by Ontario at the World's Fair showed it to be in the very front rank of all countries in the world. Ontario has the climate as well as the flora for producing the very best honey. The output of honey has at least quadrupled within the last decade, and it is constantly gaining in favor for table use. Both as food and medicine it was desirable and its consumption was bound to increase. Honey of good quality must be produced and kept absolutely free from adulteration. At the World's Fair he was surprised to find suspicion of adulteration so widespread. The reputation of Ontario honey at home and abroad is such that he was able to sell