

# Seventeenth Annual Meeting

of the

## Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association

Held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at the City of Toronto,  
December 8th, 9th and 10th, 1896.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The president, Mr. R. F. Holtermann, in the chair, called the meeting to order.

The Secretary, Mr. Wm. Couse read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting which were confirmed.

Owing to the illness of the Secretary's sister, Mr. Couse was unable to present the Secretary's report and it was left over until a later stage in the proceedings.

MR. HOLTERMANN—I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have the Hon. Mr. Fisher, The Dominion Minister of Agriculture with us. He is on his way to Guelph and has to leave on the 5:30 train and I am sorry he cannot be with us at a later stage when we would have more of the members of the Association present but I am sure you will all bear me out in the statement that we are very much pleased to have the Dominion Minister of Agriculture for the first time at our meeting. I now introduce the Hon. Mr. Fisher and will ask him to say a few words to us. (Applause.)

THE HON. SYDNEY E. SMITH.

Mr. President and Gentleman: I responded to the invitation of Mr. Holtermann to come here this afternoon because I was anxious to meet those who were interested in this branch of agriculture. I think I may call it a branch of agriculture although perhaps very few would be disposed to consider it such. I am on my way, as Mr. Holtermann said, to attend the meeting at Guelph of the stock men of the Province of Ontario and I suppose perhaps I might also consider you, gentlemen, as another branch of stock keepers, although bees perhaps are hardly included in the general term of stock.

They are however an important branch of industry and from what I read I can quite understand that they may be made of still more importance than they have yet attained to. I must tell you frankly how-

ever that I know very little about bees or bee-keeping; I am not myself a bee-keeper and anything I know about them is simply the little I have learned from reading, seeing some of your exhibits at the different exhibitions, and enjoying some of the sweets of the industry.

Mr. Holtermann has been to see me once or twice and has talked to me as to what might be done to aid and encourage bee-keeping and the industry in this country. I have been very much interested indeed with what has been laid before me, but from what I must confess to be my lack of knowledge and experience I cannot pretend to have come to any conclusions at all. I feel I must leave it till such time as you are prepared to lay before me some suggestions as to what might be within the scope of the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominion to aid and assist your particular industry. I confess I am not in a position to advise you. I am not in a position to elaborate any scheme which might aid you, but I shall be very glad indeed to receive any suggestions from you and any information which might lead me to see what would be of assistance to you. The duty of the Minister of Agriculture I conceive to be to try and take an interest in, and aid and assist every industry which is connected with the tilling of the soil of the country. The actual keeping of bees perhaps is not connected with the tilling of the soil of the country, but you are by the keeping of bees making use of the fruits of certain products of our land and therefore you are intimately connected with the agriculture of the country. If our crude crops can be turned into something of value at not too great an expense, something of small bulk at the same time comparatively great value I conceive it to be one of the best parts of our industry of agriculture. Just as the turning of crops into butter or into cheese is a high development in farming so I believe turn-