

ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The President—I will now call on Mr. Morley Pettit to read his paper on **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE THE ASSOCIATION MORE USEFUL TO BEE-KEEPERS?**

(Address by Morley Pettit, Villa Nova.)

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, our Secretary has given me rather a difficult and delicate mission in asking me to take the pulse and temperature, as it were, and prescribe for this august Association. No doubt the patient will take the medicine kindly, and the members will suggest many other remedies which have not occurred to me.

In forming and carrying on an Association, the first thing to consider is the aim of the Association—its excuse for existence. While I have not seen in the by-laws the object of the O.B.K.A., I consider it is, or should be, broadly, "the advancement of the bee-keeping interests of this province." This is effected, first, by an annual convention, where the members meet and face to face discuss and exchange ideas on both the practical and business side of bee-keeping.

Second, by the continual and persistent effort of the directors and officers to develop bee-keeping as a business and overcome the obstacles in its way. In the years that I have been a member of this Association I find a certain lack of business methods, a failure on the part of members to take the Association and its mission seriously. The conventions are looked upon too much as social gatherings, owing largely to the fact that with many bee-keeping is

treated as a side-line, whose profits are very much of a bonus, almost clear profit. With them the convention is an outing where acquaintances are formed which ripen into friendships lasting and good. But the business end of the convention, which should be foremost, is over-ruled, sessions are delayed in starting by the non-appearance of officers and members, discussions often become prolonged and pointless, so that the time of the convention, which, at a very low estimate on the expenses incurred by members, is worth ten or fifteen dollars an hour, is ruthlessly wasted. Another point, which is more delicate to touch upon, yet is vital to the good work of the Association, is the fear, which most of us have to a greater or lesser degree, that some one's feelings may be hurt, either our own or those of some friend. Can we not rise above this and, as sensible men, drop bickerings and personal preferences and petty animosities and toughen up tender skins and study what is best for the Association as a whole.

What can this Association do for the advancement of bee-keeping in Ontario? Something has been done in the way of advertising Canadian honey at the great fairs and exhibitions. The Honey Exchange Committee is doing a good work in collecting crop reports and giving a sort of weather man's forecast prices. Good literature is provided the members in the form of the "Canadian Bee Journal." The Transportation Committee is battling with the problem of better freight and express rates on honey, bees, etc. Something has been done in the way of legislation against the adulteration of honey and for the checking of disease among bees. As to how the foul brood law is being carried out, I shall leave to others on the program better versed in the subject than I. We have also an annual government grant of money, but

is there not room in this line? Other ture are receiving support in the wa, kets and the pro, tribution of produ, markets and the, Fruit, dairy produ, spected by a quali, cial before going c, can be shipped in, and the careful s, share of the conse, are put to the fi, crowded back. Po, growing, flower-cu, dignified occupati, joke. We are "be, men"—spoken wi, should this be? W, edy lie? In ourse, ing taken more se, of the country tha, the difference to, bee-keepers themse, and ability inspir, others. But we n, power that is help, we using the help, the best advantage, We already rec, amount of money, ment. A large por, fray the expenses, while attending the, of the Association, the local Associati, them to send deleg, tion. Is this the be, money can be use, ment of bee-keepin, work earnestly dur, ganize and enlight, of their respective, crease the profits o, come prepared to re, convention; if the, promote the interes, ive Associations w, tion, and go home i