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Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

The President now called upon Mr. Holmes, who read his paper entitled "Queens," which is as follows:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—As stated in the program of this convention, I am to give an address on the subject of "Queens," and it may be presumed that the master, as he scans the list, will see an opportunity. If he be a sporting man he will at once suggest "the queen of the turf," or if he be a society man his thoughts will immediately become centred on the "queen of the party." Force of habit and influence of association acting as a matter of course as the prompter of the scene in these and other similar flights of fun and fancy.

To individuals of this class, if such be present, I have only to say that this association of practical men convened in this town for purely practical purposes, that it is composed of individuals who are not speculative in any way, but operative in the strictest sense of the term, and that the only subject eligible for consideration at this meeting of this regularly organized

meeting of Canadian and American bee-keepers are the queens of our colonies and mothers of our most wonderful pets, the honey bees.

The practical man contemplating the advisability of entering upon any line of work or business, carefully studies the situation from every point of view, and, when fully convinced of its desirability as a lucrative venture, complies most assiduously with all the conditions necessary to the complete success of the undertaking.

That all business men are not thus thorough in calculation and execution goes without saying, and it is also perhaps safe to infer that bee-keepers as a class are not without their failings as well. But every bee-keeper knows, or thinks he knows all about queens, and yet it would seem as though some, perhaps too many, bee-keepers are satisfied by merely knowing that "a queen" is in the hive without any consideration as to her qualifications or ability for the duty which she is to perform. The splendid hives and foundations of the day are certainly a boon which every true bee-keeper appreciates, but the great centre on which success most largely depends, that "centre" at which no "master" bee-keeper can err is in securing "the good queen" for every colony.

What do I mean by the good queen? By the use of the term "good queen"