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## Annual Meeting

Twentieth Annual  
Meeting Bee-Keep-  
ers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT  
TORONTO,  
DEC., 1899.

### Bee-Keepers' Associations; Their Past, Present and Future

W. H. Hutchison, Flint, Mich.

The time was when a man who owned some bees would walk a mile or two to see an article "on bees" in some paper. The time was when a bee-keeper would come home from a convention fairly loaded down with the new things he had learned. If the wives of bee-keepers who now attend conventions would ask their husbands upon their return what new things they had learned I think some of them would have to scratch their heads before replying. The time was when the principal feature of an association was the dissemination of methods for managing bees. This is no longer true. The social pleasures are now the paramount feature of a convention. Perhaps no one has admitted this; but look down deep in your heart and see what answer you find to the question, "Why did it come?" Editors of bee-journals, the supply dealers, may go to a convention to further the interests of their business, and it is entirely proper that they should, but the producer comes mostly, princi-

pally, and all of the time "to see the boys and have a good time." I will admit that many things in regard to managing of bees for profit are still learned at conventions; and these gatherings would still be as valuable for this purpose now as in days of yore, were it not for the great number of most excellent and low priced journals devoted to the business. No sooner does a bee-keeper make some new discovery than he reports it to his favorite journal; and other journals copy it; and by the time that a convention meets there is nothing new to talk about—it has all been told.

But the social feature of a convention is not to be sneered at. The friction of mind against mind, this rubbing up against our fellows, brightens us, sharpens our wits, gives us broader views, and makes us better bee-keepers and better men. Then, there is the pleasure of it. This life is not simply a life of dollars and cents. At least it ought not to be. The man who has worked at home all summer owes himself and his wife an annual outing with kindred spirits.

From a business point of view the usefulness of bee-keepers' associations in the future will be the accomplishment of those objects that require united action—those that bring to mind the motto: "In union there is strength." Associations can accomplish things that are beyond the

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