

Ontario Bee-keepers' Association.

Of all the organizations brought into existence by the Mowat Government, this one whose annual meeting has just been held in Toronto, stands alone in being unhealthy and unthrifty. It has been a sort of pet with the powers that be, and this may be one reason why it has not flourished better. One thousand dollars or more was spent upon it at the time of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to enable it to make a creditable display of Canadian honey, which it did, although it has borne little or no fruit in the way of practical results. The Association has had a grant of \$600 a year, to which \$150 were added a year ago to meet extra expenses connected with its entertainment of the North American Beekeepers annual meeting. Besides this regular subsidy, the Government pays the salary and travelling expenses of the Foul Brood Inspector about \$600 more. But as intimated, the organization does not prosper. Its membership has gone down about one-half during the past two years. The chief cause of this has been loss of interest and confidence on the part of the beekeepers of the Province. A clique has got the management of the Association and is running it to its ruin. The ruling spirits, fond of trips to Ottawa and of lobbying through acts of Parliament conceived in the spirit of the dark ages, have wasted a large amount of money on useless and unconstitutional legislation. They have got acts passed that are bound to be declared *ultra vires* whenever they are tested in the courts. One is called the Sugar Honey Bill, which forbids beekeepers feeding pure honey to their bees for storing in the comb. The same fight has been going on about this matter that has gone on about oleomargarine, and can have only the same result. Oleomargarine is allowed to be manufactured, but must be offered in the market as such, and sold for what it is. It may be wholesome and legitimate manufacture when properly made, but must not be put on the market as butter made from milk. The same ground will have to be taken about sugar honey whenever it is tested in the courts. The manufacture of honey by bees from pure granulated sugar is legitimate and wholesome, and it is legally right to make and sell it for what it is, namely, sugar honey.

Another piece of legislation on which a lot of public money has been thrown away is the Foul Brood law, which gives unheard-of power to the inspector. He can go on to a man's premises without so much as saying "By your leave" to the owner, and if he

finds any trace of the disease can burn, kill and destroy at his own sweet will. The owner has no appeal and no redress. The Ontario Government has left itself without even interpreting power. If any beekeeper appeals to it in a case of injustice, all it can do, is to say, "Go to the Beekeepers' Association or the law courts" The inspector has carried things with a high hand in some glaring cases, but the clique that runs the association is ready to back him up in anything that he does, and beekeepers are leaving the body rather than get involved in strife and turmoil. The Foul Brood law as administered by this man is a fizzle and a failure. It is bound sooner or later to be declared unconstitutional, but who is going to the expense of fighting the Provincial Government in the law courts to have its legislation corrected? So from these and many other causes there is smouldering discontent and unless there is a speedy change in the management this Association will die out. It had certainly better do so than drag on a painful existence in strife and discord, caused by men whose ignorance and petty ambition have become intolerable to men of intelligent mind and independent spirit.—The St. Thomas Times.

Fun for the Editors.

A Texas editor sends a free paper to the banker of his village, in order that he can tell his friends he is going down to "meet his paper" at the bank.—The Journalist.

Humorist—Sir, I have some paragraphs to submit. Editor (glancing them over)—You have made a mistake—tomestone dealer lives next door. We don't buy epitaphs here.

Dr. Platt mentions an echo at Woodstock park which repeats 17 syllables by day and 20 by night.

Blocks 60 feet long without a break are found quite frequently in the onyx quarries in Lower California.

A dollar loaned for 100 years and compounded at 24 per cent will amount in that time to \$2,551,799,404.

The father of Chaucer was a vintner, and the future poet and favorite of royalty spent his youth washing bottles.

There is an old Mexican law which prohibits a ninth marriage. A much married American, in ignorance of the law, violated it and is now in jail in Colima.

The congregation of Fifth Avenue Baptist church, New York, recently subscribed \$30,000 in a single collection in response to the pastor's appeal on behalf of foreign missions.