

and gives a little diversity to our educational institutions in this country all tending to building up character and to help form a nation of such stability and such character as can only exist for a great length of time. Then I do not want you to forget while you are looking over our institutions and our form of government to notice what we have on our Statute books. You are bee-keepers. Look into our Statute books and see what we have done in the way of encouragement of this industry, and you will get just an example of what our people are willing to do for the encouragement of every industry in this country. We have laws caring for all classes of the people, the mechanic, the laboring man, the farmer, the merchant and every body we seek to provide for. We are proud of our legislation in the province of Ontario. Then I want you to observe especially the progress we are making agriculturally in this province assisted and aided as it is by our various agricultural societies. Our Farmers' Institute our associations such as the one under whose auspices you gather here to-night, it is only a sample of those working, not merely to help each other but working to scatter information, to educate the masses of the people towards better methods and greater progress, and better productions in connection with all these things. Then I want you to notice as well, because I would like all the members of this convention to remain over till next week, till they could see our exhibition in full blast.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday you will see the people of our province pouring in to this exhibition and some from the States of your union as well. I would like you to notice the faces of our people and see if they do not represent intelligence, energy, determination, and pluck. I want you to watch their good behaviour, because we are always proud of their good behavior, when they come together on a great occasion like that, and I want you to watch what we have here in this province although we are considered sometimes of small account, that we are plucky enough to compete any where the world over. You remember that this little province was not ashamed to present her products in the face of the whole world and if you study the record, you will remember we did not have to take a back seat, and that we occupy nearly the front place every time. (Applause). When you have done all this I know that as far as our American friends are concerned, we shall hear no more annexation of Canada to the United States, that would be too ridiculous, too absurd, but you will go home and commence an agita-

tion in your particular neighborhood to annex the part of the country that you belong to, to this glorious Canada of ours. Then my words of welcome would not be complete if I did not give you a hearty welcome to the city of Toronto. I do not live in the city of Toronto, except when I am compelled to be here because of my official duty, but I would like to say that we people who live in the country claim that the city is ours and we are proud of the chief city in the province. We know it claims a good many attractions. I won't stay to describe them to you, but you will likely find them out. It is the centre of our educational work, the centre of our parliamentary work. The parliament building put up for the least amount, substantial and useful, you will find just a little way off in the park and you will find a good many pleasant streets in which you can go if you desire to take a ride, and I know if the mayor was home he would endorse every word I say in welcoming you to the city of Toronto, and I have no doubt he would give you the freedom of the whole city so long as you are willing to pay your landlord. I will not detain you longer but I want just to say one word more, those who are here as members of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association, I know they would like me to say that they welcome you here as brothers, you are engaged in a common industry. I would like to say that we are not jealous of any attainments you have made. It may be that you have gone on a little in advance but it may be that we in the province are able to teach you as well. We are here not jealous of each other, but helpers of each other. As an agriculturalist I am always harping on this string, I detest the idea which gets hold of some of our people all over this country that there is to be a separation between them and their fellows who are in the same calling, when I am helping my neighbor I am helping myself and you are only helping yourself when you are helping us. If it were possible for you who come from the States to combine together and find some outside market to which you could send your products by which you could cheapen the production or anything of that sort; I do not see why you should not engage in it, one of you can do nothing, but you can do a great deal when you combine your forces, therefore, I say on behalf of this association, we welcome you here as brothers and friends and as those engaged in the calling. I shall not have an opportunity to meet with you again after this evening, but I hope the work of this convention will be of such a character that everybody that comes here