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HON. NELSON MONTEITH

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as I feel less at home with this subject than with some others. I feel that I am called upon to speak to men who are experts in their business, men who are specialists. When we consider the great interests involved in the bee industry in this country, I think it will be admitted that your efforts are accomplishing great results. I have listened to what has been said in regard to the great bee industry of this home province, over 220,000 square miles in extent, and I believe bees may be raised on the greater portion of it. That is what they say up north. And at present I suppose the bee industry

is confined to about 20,000,000 acres. That is about the same amount of land under cultivation or occupied here, and there is a great, big territory yet to be occupied by the people that are to come. This bee industry represents an invested capital of about \$1,200,000, a very large amount of money, so that you have in your keeping quite a large financial asset for this province. I believe from what I have had the pleasure of seeing up at the exhibition at Massey Hall that you are keeping well to the front in the matter of the quality of your production. I am glad of this, but I believe the bee men are modest like myself. They do not ap-

parently put before the public the value of honey as a food in the way it should be. It hasn't been advertised in the way it might have been, because you have been satisfied to produce the article and leave it there. You haven't pushed the business as some other men have in other lines. I am just saying this from my own observations as a citizen amongst you. The use of honey is very limited as yet, and it is one of the best natural foods produced, and I see no reason why it should not be more largely used by us as a people outside of the export trade altogether. One pound has as much nutriment in it as five pounds of pork, and when you know what pork costs, you begin to realize the importance of the comparison. There is one thing that appeals to me as a citizen of this country. I believe that in the matter of varieties of bees possibly you are well to the front. However, it is well to be ambitious to have something better. You know that for many years the old German bee was the only bee known here. After that, the introduction of the Italian was a long step in advance; then came the Cyprian and later the Austrian bee. Now they are reporting from the American Department of Agriculture a bee known as the Caucasian. I am not one of those who are satisfied to sit down and say I have the best. I am always ready to try something new and something better. When we think we have reached the ideal, then we lose ground. That is the reason why I point out these things—so that we may see whether the Caucasian is what it is claimed to be or not. You are the men that have to prove this. However, I am not here to speak at any length. I wish you success in your business, because your business is not confined merely to honey-making. It has a wider sphere of usefulness in this country—an influence that is beneficial to the fruit-