

that Bruce and its adjoining counties contain many enthusiastic and enterprising beekeepers. Having resided within a few miles of Walkerton, its county town, for about ten years, I know whereof I speak.

It has, nevertheless, occurred to me that the suggestion made by myself some little time since, to the effect that advertising in the local papers, as well as in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, has helped in a measure to bring out some who had no other means of knowing the date of such meeting. In



F. A. GEMMELL.

fact, it appears to me, our past gatherings have lacked numbers, and consequently suffered from want of enthusiasm on this very account.

Having said this much by way of introduction, I will pass on to some of the more important matters my address is supposed to touch upon in connection with the pursuit. Therefore, I may state it has been quite a bonanza to myself as well as to a large majority of beekeepers especially in the western portion of the Province, that, notwithstanding our grave fears of another poor season, on account of the late backward spring, our hives have been more than realized in having a crop above the average; and indeed in some of the more favored localities, we have had about the

best season ever remembered, thereby to some extent reassuring those who have of late been concluding that successful apiculture was going to become - what we soon hope to see the McKinley bill, - a thing of the past.

I must confess, however, that in numerous instances difficulties have presented themselves, and it did really seem to me that the honey producer of the future was not only to be a great lover of his calling, but, in addition, one who must be possessed of considerable resolution and perseverance to continue it, as no sooner has one obstacle been disposed of than others have presented themselves. Hence, after securing the much needed legislation in regard to foul brood, the spraying of fruit trees, etc., we now stand face to face with others. Yes, plain sailing, it appears, does not yet seem to be our good fortune, and our united efforts must still continue the good work of suggesting the best means with which to deal with poor prices, the expected honey misrepresentation, and lastly, the most serious of all, the comb sugar honey fraud.

Now, gentlemen, it is not my intention to enlarge upon these topics here. These I shall leave for other and wiser heads to wrestle with; suffice it to say, for the present, that in regard to the first, I think many of the beekeepers are in a great measure to blame for the present state of affairs, the result principally of too great anxiety to dispose of the crop in the early part of the season, under the impression that it will be a drag on the market. An instance has been brought under my notice in which a producer disposed of several thousand pounds of A 1 extracted honey at about five and a half cents per pound, and a quantity of the dalk article at a trifle over one and a half cents per pound. As to the remedy in such cases, it is rather difficult to suggest one; at the same time, I think, the suggestion made by Mr. Holtermann that honey should by some means be quoted regularly in the market reports, the same as butter, eggs and other products, and thus brought constantly and more prominently before the public.

The adulterated extracted honey misrepresentation, which rather unfortunately has crept into one of our most widely circulated family newspapers, through the rather indiscreet article furnished by my friend, Prof. Clarke, over the *nom de plume* of Firehimbaok, is one that seemed of such a serious character that I cannot pass it unnoticed, believing as I do that little of any such is sold in Canada, and this certainly not by producers, the low price of the article not favoring such a practice