

# NORTH-AMERICAN Bee-Keepers' Association

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING,  
Held in the Normal School, Auditorium, Toronto, Wednesday  
Thursday and Friday, September 4th, 5th and 6th, 1895.

(Concluded)

Doctor Mason—We have occasionally done something that when we have done it we have been glad. I think this evening will be another opportunity of expressing our appreciation of what has been accomplished for our interest in this province. Occasionally we have been in the habit of making honorary members of this Association although we have been very cautious about who we put there. As an evidence of our esteem and appreciation of what has been done by the Hon. John Dryden and Dr. Mills, I move that we make them honorary members of this Association.

Motion seconded by Mr. MacEvoy, carried unanimously.

Doctor Mills—I have to say that I appreciate very much being associated with the Bee Keepers of the Continent of America, and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture appreciates the honor also.

How bee-keepers might receive more benefits from the Experimental Stations: E. L. Taylor, Lapierre, Mich. (Paper will appear next month.)

Doctor Mills—It appears to me that one of the important things for you to do is to suggest lines of experimental work that might be conducted at the Experimental Stations and I hope that before you leave here to-morrow you will suggest some lines of experimental work, because I might say to you that the Minister of Agriculture has undertaken something in that line. Wise as Mr. Holtermann may be, I think it may be helpful to him that practical men should suggest some practical experiments to make.

Dr. Mason—I have often thought how much more might be accomplished by the directors of our Experimental Stations if we could have them make experiments important to bee-keepers, because we have neither the means nor the time nor the

knowledge to cope with them, and I think it will be well for the directors in the different experimental stations to experiment in the same line and then compare the results.

The Chairman—While we are upon this subject of the kind of work to do, I will mention one experiment that has been conducted this year. Of course you will understand there is a good deal in the way these experiments are reported. The Experimental Union undertook the first work in regard to experiment on comb foundation. In order to know just exactly where the wax went that was in the foundation I colored it in different ways, I took a portion of carbon and another portion made up of a mixture they use in making chewing gum, and I made up a mixture of this wax and dipped it and melted it. The preparation of carbon I worked through at the same time with the ordinary wax and I carried those two different samples side by side and after making measurements and getting the results I could compare them. In the carbon preparation we found by making measurements the bees did not object to that particular preparation. This black foundation was put in the hive, the bees appeared to have edged the white wax and kept on that way until there was a gradual gradation from a base of perfectly black to the end of the wall of white. We will be able to give that in the report by means of photograph. Then we have another experiment in connection with flat bottom foundation. I took the lightest and heaviest we could get, took the size of the section four inches, covered one-half of it in the section with wood and the other half the bees were allowed to work out. We made a plaster cast of that after extracting the honey. We filled these cells with plaster of paris and then took a side cut,