

here at this convention. I would like now first of all in behalf of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association with which I am so closely connected to extend to everybody who is present at this convention a most hearty welcome, but I want especially to emphasize the welcome to those who are strangers among us and those who are visitors in this country. I am sure every member of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association wishes you the hearty welcome which I offer you on this occasion. I am only speaking on their behalf. We would like you all to have a very pleasant time, full of happiness and full of joy and pleasure, while you are here. I know that because I think I have a right to go further and say on behalf of our people of whatever calling I give you who are strangers among us a right royal welcome.

I want to welcome you first of all to this great Dominion of ours. I happened to be president of another Association of an international character, one of the stock associations and the association which we claim is the largest in the world. We have members from California in the west and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the east, and away down in southern states, all over this our Canada. I have been struck, in fact I have said the next time I come to this gathering I am going to bring a map of Canada with me because I found how utterly ignorant these men were of where we live over here, and all that Canada was composed of and whether Montreal was in the Dominion or in some particular province that was not mentioned in it. We had some difficulty because we appointing delegates from the various provinces, and they asked me how many provinces have you got, so I would like to let you know when I am welcoming you to this Dominion comprising the different provinces which are content to live under the protection of the British flag, that I am welcoming you to the larger half of the continent of America, the larger half we do not want you to forget that, and I want you to try and think of the immense resources of this Dominion of ours. Some of the people of the United States have got the idea that we are frozen up nine months of the year, thawed out in the summer time and that we have not any fruit and just a few bees on the frontier, and I want you when you are here to examine enough of the situation so that you will be able to go back and enlighten those with whom you to go back and enlighten those with whom you come in contact. I want you to notice our resources undeveloped to a certain extent but resources which will some day make this a very great country, and a very

great Dominion. I want you to notice the resources of the forest yet untouched, of mines yet unexplored, of soil which yet awaits the plough of some of our active agriculturalists. I want you to notice the hills, the mountains, the plains, and the valleys especially when you get to the north of us, and see if it is not true that this northern part of this Canada of ours is capable and will produce sturdy and independent, self-reliant people.

But I want to welcome our visitors especially to what I shall call this evening without any offence to any of the other provinces, of this Dominion, the Banner province, the chief province of this Dominion, our province of Ontario. You will have an opportunity, I dare say, of noticing our fertile fields as you go through our province and some of the thriving villages, towns and cities, which it contains, but I would like you to go a little farther and I want you while you are here, if you will take the time, just to examine our system of government in the province of Ontario and see if we in this province, are not even more democratic than you are in the United States and see if in this province the people do not more perfectly, more absolutely, govern themselves than they do in any of the American States and see if we are not what I shall call the best form of Government you can find any where in the world, and I sometimes look into the future and say when the United States have failed to work out this problem of self-government we shall find in Canada, doing it and showing the world that it is possible for people to succeed in governing themselves.

Then I do not want you to forget to look into our system of Education. You are in one of the departments of it here in this building and you will see one of the best systems to be found anywhere the world over, commencing as it does in the Kindergarten in the beginning and going on, link by link, through the various forms of public and high schools, until it comes to the topmost stand in our great universities. It is our proud boast that all this is in connection with our education is free to the humblest boy or girl in the land. Every body has a right to it and may be permitted to go through it, and we delight to know that some of our proudest and most shining lights that we have in this province are those born of humblest origin. These born of the poorest parents and who have had the pluck and energy to push themselves through all these various stages until they have reached the top. Then we have our independent colleges, and schools of various descriptions which add strength