

Annual Convention

Ontario Bee keepers Association

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was held in the York County Council Chamber, Toronto, November 7, 8 and 9, 1906. The President, Mr. H. G. Sibbald, Claude, Ont., occupied the chair during the sessions, maintaining excellent order and decorum, and exhibiting, as he has done throughout his two years of office, ability, tact and fairness of administration.

President's Address.

It is my pleasure to again greet you, to bid you another welcome to the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, which is, I believe, the twenty-seventh meeting of this Association.

I regret that I cannot congratulate you on having had an abundant harvest at this, our harvest home meeting. Still some words of cheer ought to be said, and I can truthfully and confidently assure you that we are one year nearer a great big crop than we were at this time last year, if this is any consolation. The price of honey has advanced to where it ought always to stay. Honey is a cheap and most wholesome food at 12½ to 15 cents per pound, and at those prices will compare most favorably with other foods.

There is no reason why prices, as at present, should not be maintained. This is Canada's growing time. Thousands are pouring into our country. Cities, towns and villages are growing at a tremendous rate, and it is up to us to supply the people with one of the best of foods—honey.

Bee-keeping in the past has been marked by progress. No industry has made more rapid strides, and still we are going ahead. Appliances, devices, methods, are being adapted and used to enable the bee-keeper to keep more bees, produce more honey and live comfortably, and with a dignity becoming our most interesting occupation.

Our Association should have due credit for this advancement, being an educator of no mean proportion, having secured laws that have saved the industry from destruction. Along this line will come before you an announcement from the Department of Agriculture, intimating that our grant for the suppression of foul brood is to be doubled, showing also that a deep interest is being taken in our industry, and this Association by the Hon. Nelson Monteith and Prof. C. C. James, his deputy Minister.

Since our last meeting the Foul Brood act has been amended, and there are some other things I would like to say in this connection. The Act, as amended, takes away from the Association the right to appoint and the right to direct the inspector. That is now in the hands of the Department of Agriculture. This was not done in an arbitrary way at all. A committee consisting of Mr. Couse, Mr. Gemmell, Mr. Miller and myself, were invited to interview the Minister, and we all considered that it would be better if such a step were taken. The inconsistency of the old plan was shown up very plainly—the president of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association had the directing of the inspector and the Department of Apiculture had the paying. The Department thought that the directing and paying ought to be both done by the Association or both done by the Department, and we thought that as the President changes from year to year, it would be better if the

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