

and we hope many search lights will be thrown upon the question during the present year.

### President Pickett's Address at the Stratford Convention.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Another year having passed since we last met in Lindsay, where, by your unanimous vote, you made me your president, it now becomes my duty to give an account of my stewardship. Since last we met we have had a year during which have been some changes and a year in some ways adverse to bee-keepers. During the year of 1893-94 the temperature was high and there were but few changes. The spring opened somewhat earlier than usual, the bees coming out strong in numbers with but few losses, and the prospect to my mind seemed better than for many years. But, alas! we are doomed to disappointment. Bees gathered some nectar from the willow and soft maple after which they did but little more than live on what was left of their winter stores. The rain and cold weather kept them in till many colonies had eaten all the stores that were left from winter and they died from starvation before they could get nectar to gather. Those living through were so lessened in numbers that but little clover honey was taken and they were not ready to do good work until the Lynden bloom. and because of the drought it only remained in bloom a few days, the season ending with not more than half a crop and in many places scarcely enough to winter on. The increase of colonies in many places was very small.

Then there have been changes in our ranks. You will doubtless remember that on the seventh of April last we were called to mourn the death of our worthy secretary S. Corniel. How while carrying out his bees and placing them on their summer stands, he suddenly expired.

On hearing of his sudden death I hastened to write a few words of sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family, which expression was acknowledged by his son. I shall ask this association to pass a resolution of sympathy to the bereaved family, and should it take a practical shape I shall be much pleased, as I understand it is much needed by them.

I am pleased to note that our annual meetings are improving year by year, in

the number that attend and the interest manifested, also in the desire to know more about this our chosen pursuit.

I also note a more earnest desire on the part of members to attract outsiders, by preparing entertainments seeking in every proper way to interest them and advance the art of bee-culture.

I take pleasure in assuring you that both the Provincial and Dominion Governments are interested in apiculture as shown by them giving us a Foul Brood law and what is known as the "Spraying Bill." I have been informed that the Dominion Parliament passed the bill known as the "Pure Honey Bill" which was thrown out of the Senate. This fact is greatly to be deplored after spending so much of the funds of the association on committees in trying to secure its passage.

As regards the prizes awarded at Chicago on honey and implements used in the apiary, I am not aware that they have yet reached those who were successful in earning them.

The number of affiliated associations is about the same as last year, with the prospect of a large increase in numbers if we had the means to encourage them to affiliate. Being short of funds we cannot offer sufficient inducements to others to organize these associations.

I hope in the near future the Provincial Government through the Minister of Agriculture, may see fit to place an amount at our disposal sufficient to meet our necessities in this particular.

I also bring before your notice the prize list of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition. As it reads at present the judges will have a task which they cannot perform with any degree of satisfaction to themselves or to those exhibiting honey or articles in which it is used.

In referring to the matter of Foul Brood it is my earnest wish that the work which the inspector is doing shall be pushed forward until the disease cannot be found anywhere in this province of ours. The inspector has had a busy year in trying to clear out the scourge, and had an amount of success which it is pleasing to note. Many who had the disease in their apiaries in the early summer are now free from its ravages, and we rejoice in the fact that we have one who can deal with it so successfully.

In closing allow me to thank you for choosing me to fill the responsible position of president, and to assure you that I have endeavoured carefully to perform the duties devolving upon me during the past year. After all the difficulties we have had to