

British bee-keepers have a membership of upwards of 10,000. The county associations are affiliated to the number of forty counties. Mr. Cowan says: "In these associations the end sought is to determine the principles which render successful production possible, and what individual effort has failed to do the principle of co-operation is rapidly accomplishing."

For some years a few have made an effort to have the county associations affiliated with the Ontario, but heretofore it has failed. No more opportune time than the present could be found. The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association incorporated and an annual grant of \$500 to be distributed for the benefit and advancement of its members will offer alone a strong inducement to the county associations to take steps to stand on the same ground with the Ontario.

This form of organization in Ontario properly carried out by a large membership, every one active and making every effort by sending in reports of honey crop, increasing the membership, giving all information of value to the association, would give us an association and co-operation which cannot but help to put bee-keepers upon a more solid footing. We are passing through a stage through which every new industry must pass, and are rapidly increasing the production of an article to which (as food) the public have, as yet, learned to have no demand. The price is coming down and is placing it at a figure that will open for it doors which have heretofore been shut against it, and the result will be, a larger market, a greater demand, and by proper efforts on our part we will be able from day to day to produce the article at a lower figure. All this, and the securing of a more uniform price, can be hastened by thorough organization on our part.

Owing to incorporation we will be on an entirely new footing; let us get on solid ground from the commencement. Would it not be well for county associations to discuss the question of affiliation at their very next meeting, and either express their views by letter or by delegates at the next meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, which, if I mistake not, does not meet until winter, therefore giving ample time to all to meet and express their views. This is a vital question for bee-keepers, and the sooner correctly settled the better for the rising industry.

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At a meeting of the commissioners, who form the majority of the executive committee of the O. B. K. A., it was decided that the annual business meet-

ing of the association should not be held until after the return of the commissioners from the Indian and Colonial Exhibition now going on. This would make the date of meeting about December. At the meeting to be held then the association will require to be re-formed to meet the requirements of the government in the matter of chartered associations. Another reason for holding the meeting at this date, is that we will then be in a position to receive from the commissioners a full report of their trip and the outcome of their arrangements for a future trade of Canadian honey in England; also a financial statement of their sales and the prices realized. Were it left until the usual time of meeting the report would be stale, and little interest at that time would be manifested. In the meantime it is thought best by the president and executive that a "bee talk" should be had during the last week of the exhibition at Toronto and the matter was left with the Secretary-Treasurer to decide as to the date of meeting etc. Mr. Couse set apart the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday Sept. 14th and 15th. The place of meeting will probably be decided before another issue of the JOURNAL, when it will be given. The probabilities are that the city council will, as in former years, grant us the use of the council chamber for that purpose.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

PROMACHUS VERTEBRATUS? SAY.

I am not quite satisfied as to the specific identity of the "bug" you last sent me, but of Dr. Williston's six species it agrees best with *P. vertebratus*, yet it may be an undescribed form. From the condition of the specimen when it reached me, I judge it was captured in Ontario, if so, it is the first reported capture and I would be very thankful for a large series of specimens.

All members of the genus prey on other insects largely on Hymenoptera. Often on the honey bee. A related species *P. fitchii* O. S. is especially destructive, one individual killing 141 bees in a day.

Another related species *P. bastardii* is common around Toronto. I have seen them capture and kill bumble bees. They dart upwards with an ill-natured "bizz" and pounce on the flying bee from above grasping it under the wings with their powerful fore legs while with the hind legs