

ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was held in the Court House, in the city of Hamilton, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 7th, 8th and 9th, 1898.

The President, Mr. J. K. DARLING, called the meeting to order at two o'clock p.m.

The Secretary, Mr. Wm. COUSE, read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which, on motion, were confirmed as read, and signed by the President.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.

Another season has passed by and we are again met together to compare results and lay plans for the future. The past season has been a varied one, the bee-keepers in some localities securing a fairly good yield of first-class honey, while in others there was very little, and in some places none whatever of a first-class article, stored by the little workers.

In some sections there was a small flow of dark honey in the fall, and in others the bees secured barely enough for winter stores, and a good number of colonies have had to be fed. As a consequence prices are firm, and the surplus of last year is likely to disappear before another season opens.

As an Association we can congratulate ourselves on making progress. Some years this advance is not as pronounced as at other time, yet "Onward" is the word, and we are living fairly up to it. If we take a statement made by the President of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario, at their annual meeting held in Brockville last January, and compare our work with theirs, we will have no cause to feel disheartened. After referring to the vast amount of butter and cheese which Ontario exports to England, he says: "Now, how has this been brought about? In the first place, by organizing a dairymen's convention at Igersoll thirty years ago this spring with the motto of 'Progress.' For the first fourteen years all that the Association did was to hold conventions, to teach cheese and butter makers while attending, and holding of cheese shows." Surely our record is as good as that, and while we cannot hope to accomplish as much as the dairymen can accomplish, or to increase the industry of bee-keeping to the magnitude of the butter and cheese trade, there is plenty of room for advancement. The work of the Association must be mainly along the line of education, and I think we ought to begin at once to push that branch of our work with more vigor than we have ever done in the past. It is that kind of work that has placed the dairy interest of the Dominion in the front rank as it stands to-day.

There have been no complaints of adulteration during the past year, owing no doubt to the efficient work done in the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa; and it is my opinion that with the law as it is now, and a proper watchfulness on the part of honey