

most decided way.

Mr. W. E. Clark said he agreed with the last speaker—if it can be done, he was in favor of consolidation.

Mr. C. R. Isham said that the great fight for the Union was to be fought in California in the raisin district. We must sustain the Union and defend our pursuit.

Mr. T. L. Von Dorn said that the bee-keepers of Lower California were in danger of being entirely driven out by the raisin-growers.

Mr. C. F. Muth remarked that the matter was one for the Courts to decide—not that of one pursuit against another.

Prof. A. J. Cook said that it was a case of bee-keepers and fruit-growers on one side, and ignorance on the other. The bees are the best friends to fruit-growers, to fertilize the flowers, and thereby produce the fruit. In the spring when there are but few insects to fertilize the flowers, the bees are very valuable.

Mr. H. R. Boardman advised conciliation, when there are complaints against bees by fruit-growers and others. A crate of honey given to such complainants, will do much to cause them to feel differently.

Rev. W. F. Clark said that in Court, a crate of honey would do no good—law must decide the case. He then offered the following resolution.

Resolved. That a committee of seven be appointed to consider and report upon the best methods of protecting the interests of bee-keeping from legal attack prompted by ignorance.

The resolution passed, and the committee was appointed as follows: W. F. Clarke, T. G. Newman, W. E. Clarke, James Heddon, C. F. Muth, S. T. Pettit, and Prof. A. J. Cook.

The President's annual address was then given as follows:

BROTHER BEE-KEEPERS OF NORTH AMERICA:

—We have assembled here at our annual convention to consider that which pertains to the best interests of our pursuit. I shall not occupy your time with an exhaustive address, for the programme is full, and very complete, and our time is short at best to consider the many important subjects which will be presented. I am here as a member of this Society to assist as best I may in throwing light upon the topics brought before us. I take it as an expression of good-cheer and great generosity in those who have arranged the preliminaries for these meetings, that everything for the comfort of us all has been so amply provided, and that all arrangements are so thorough and complete. Let us see to it that we endeavor to perform our part in as faithful

and unselfish a manner as our Committee has done.

We have reached a crisis in the history of bee-keeping which must be met by those who are interested in the pursuit, in a broad, honest, and unselfish way. Every well-informed bee-keeper is reminded in the most unmistakable manner that the time when large profits may be realized from keeping bees, has passed. Each year, the prices of our products have been reduced, until at the present time we find many of our markets overstocked, and our honey selling at rates which allow us little profit for producing it. These are stern facts which must be fairly met. It is not my purpose to attempt to instruct those who are already experts in the business. Their lessons have been taught them by dearly bought experience, the results of which are due to the beginner, and to those whose experience has been more limited.

We have passed through a period of great enthusiasm, and have indulged in much that has been unwarranted and injudicious. We have been far too selfish. As supply-dealers and publishers of bee-literature, we have been far too anxious to present the bright side of our calling. If we have been unwise in the past, we should be thankful that by the light of these past experiences we are able to see more clearly our way for the future. Many years ago, beginners were heard to ask if it were advisable to engage in bee-keeping as an exclusive business. The answer should have been then as now—"Commence moderately, and let experience decide as you advance." The real question now seems to be, "Shall we commence at all?" or "Shall those of us who are already engaged in it, continue?"

In answer to such questions I would offer the following suggestions: 1. Our calling is an honorable one, and is an essential branch of agriculture, in that the honey-bee is indispensable to the fertilization necessary in the vegetable kingdom. Wherever civilization advances, there the honey-bee is found. 2. Honey is a wholesome and desirable article of food. 3. It is furnished to us at our very doors, and if we fail to preserve it, the odor of wasting sweetness constantly reminds us of our neglect and loss.

With these points in view, is it not evident that a great work is to be accomplished in applying the lessons of economy and industry taught us by the bees themselves, to the accumulation of this freely-given production in the most desirable and profitable way?

We have been extravagant in many of our expenditures. These we must endeavor to reduce, to correspond as much as possible with the re-