

vines, not only we, but he receives a benefit directly therefrom. The experience of Senator G. W. Swink, of Otero Co., Colo., as stated at an informal reception given in the Apiary Building at Omaha, is in itself a whole chapter in favor of the honey-bee as a fertilizer of both fruit and flower.

In stating his case at that meeting, the Senator said that as he engaged in the business of melon-growing on the Arkansas, the crop was unsatisfactory. No blossoms that came prior to the little sweet-bee produced fruit, that crop was late, the melons deformed. A friend suggested that the trouble was in fertilization, and advised the honey-bee as a remedy. Advertisements were inserted in Kansas papers offering a free location and free board to the party who would locate an apiary in Swink's melon-fields, and when I inquired the result, he said: "Why, more than four times the melons;" and now are located in those vast melon-fields more than 600 colonies of bees, and the famous Rocky Ford melons are to be found in every Western market. They fed the vast throng of people that visited the Trans-Mississippi for nearly a week last fall, including the bee-keepers of the United States Bee-Keepers' Association, who were present on that occasion, while the Indians lugged melons and danced until the Association was really in danger of being contaminated with the effects of the festive dance.

ADULTERATION.

Nothing that we have to deal with meets us so squarely in the face at this time as adulteration. Years ago Senator Paddock, of my state (Nebraska), took up the matter of enacting pure-food laws, but the adulterators rallied to its defeat in such numbers that it failed to pass. Congress has again taken up that question and placed Senator Mason at the head of a committee whose duties are to make such investigations as are possible, and to report such laws as will best meet the cases in question. In a correspondence with the Senator I have pledged him the undivided support of 5,000,000 bee keepers, and he assures me that of all the abuses, honey appears to have suffered the most, and that it shall have a prominent position in the Bill which his committee is to report to the next Congress.

When I pledged him these 5,000,000 bee-keepers of the United States in support of a pure-food law, I realized fully what benefits such a law would bring to these producers, and would extend to, perhaps,

50,000,000 consumers. In order to make this support felt, we must ask our senators and representatives in Congress to support this measure; we must unite ourselves to the organization that will enforce such a law when enacted, and stand by it to the end.

The opportunity now presents itself to this Association to make its influence felt in this direction, but in order to do so there must be a unity of action, a banding together with this one idea of success. Differences must be dropped, especially so far as they relate to small things, and to gain this much-desired end it matters not whether honey is best south, east or west, the bee-keepers of the United States are confronted with an army of adulterators who are gradually bringing the product of the apiary into disrepute, and lessening the demand for even a pure article, for the reason that suspicion is being cast on every grade, and in many localities it is even asserted that comb honey is subject to adulteration. These mistaken ideas come mainly from the adulterators themselves, who desire to induce the public to believe that they are as good as the very best.

ADULTERATORS OF HONEY.

The suits instituted against the adulterators of honey at Chicago, under the pure-food laws of Illinois, have proven a failure from the fact that the law allowed the vendors to plead that they were not aware of the adulteration. The gun that isn't loaded is the most dangerous of all and the bee-keepers of the United States will be compelled to rely upon national legislation rather than state laws in order to clean up this great army of adulterators who prey on the unsuspecting, and when confronted in their nefarious work, hide behind some clause in the law to escape punishment by pleading ignorance. Prof. Eaton, who has analyzed several samples of adulterated honey at Chicago, states that out of the number analyzed but three were found to be pure, and the one upon which an action was based contained glucose almost entirely; not sufficient honey being used for flavoring. "The law," remarks Mr. Eaton, "is about as good as no law at all, and when 'ignorance is bliss' while engaged in vending beelless honey made from a cheap sample of glucose, dangerous to health, one of the most honorable and healthgiving industries of the United States must suffer. The experience with these adulterators should nerve the bee-keepers of the United States with a renewed determina-