

you think of an expert deciding on the merits of the different exhibits by digging a hole in the side of one section and not looking at the exhibit at all? Could you do it?

Now for the other side. Just fancy Mr. Petitt, or Mr. McEvoy, or any other expert judging in that style. I have exhibited at eight fairs. Three times there was one expert judge, the rest, two or three, well I don't know what to call them but they were not judges. Every time with the one expert judge I believe I received just the prizes I was honestly entitled to and on the grounds on which I was, entitled to receive them. At the other shows the case was diametrically opposite. Sometimes I got lower than I was honestly entitled to but never in any case did I see prizes given on the real merits of the exhibits. You may think this strong language but it is the truth.

An objection you make to a single judge is that he may be approached. Well what is to hinder it in the other case? Cannot one of two or three judges be fixed with this additional security, that in case of a kick the blame can be thrown on the other fellow, and as judges are too often appointed—with still further security that the judges don't know anything about what they are judging and don't care. An expert has to keep his name up for honesty or he would be pointed at and hissed at, in every convention and bee journal, and his position among the bee keepers would be an unenviable one. On the other hand an ignoramus is out of reach of those checks and need give himself no concern about them if indeed he ever heard that such things exist. Would such things be tolerated in other classes? For instance would stock men accept as judges, men who could not tell a Percheron horse from a Clyde or a Merino sheep from a Jersey cow? Then why are bee-keepers to accept as judges, men who know nothing about their business, simply because two or three such men can be picked up "at ilka corner" I can't accept this at all, I believe in having an expert judge. Remember I don't object to two or three expert judges where they can be procured, but as we can't get them at any show in Canada except one or two I vote for the one expert every time.

J. W. WHEALEY.

Kintore.

Mr. Whealey agrees with us though he does not seem to think so. The JOURNAL never advocated placing incompetents in the position of judges even if half a dozen were employed, and his argument shows what

unsatisfactory work these men do. At county fairs where the samples shown are few, one expert could undoubtedly do the work; but we contend that at fairs where numerous exhibitors make extensive displays two or more experts should be employed. The average agricultural society directorate knows no more about judging honey than an owl of oil painting and is not competent to select a judge. The local bee association should do this and if application were made this matter would gladly be left in their hands. The judge should be an expert in every instance and where necessary there should be "three of him"

#### Annual Report of the Bee-Keepers Union.

**P**RESSURE on our space consequent on a full report of the International convention has prevented any attention being given to this report, which has lain on our desk some time.

The Union has done and is doing a grand work, a work for which the bee-keeping fraternity the world over should be grateful. It has fought two costly law suits in which the rights of bee men were threatened, to a successful issue, one in Arkansas having to be carried to the Supreme court of the state. The precedent thus obtained is a guide for the ruling of officials before whom charges against apiarists may be laid, and the knowledge of the result acts as a wholesome deterrent on those who would invoke the law to remedy an imaginary grievance originated by the sting of a bee.

The Union acts purely on the defensive and it has yet to lose its first case. We think that it has the strongest possible claims on the financial and moral support of all bee-keepers on the continent, and that only 315 of the apiarists of the U. S. are sufficiently alive to their own interests to be members of the union, is not a creditable showing.

#### SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

J. W. WHEALEY.—Bees are wintering well, at least they are lively, so lively that I cannot look mine over. Temperature too high you say. Well I can't help it as there are no windows in the bee apartment and I can't have the door open or they would come out and get all over the house whenever the cellar door would be opened, and I can't get any snow to cool them down. Now what can be done when you can't do anything?

Kintore, Dec. 18, 1889.