

depressions, but I am not aware of any instance in which coöperation has proved a success under the conditions surrounding "our" industry. In all the various schemes of coöperation proposed or initiated, a very important factor, that of human nature, has been either ignored or greatly under-estimated in importance.

To illustrate my meaning, let us examine the scheme of an enthusiastic advocate of coöperation. His proposal may be: First, a combination of producers binding themselves not to sell below a certain price determined from time to time by an elective committee; or, second, a central depôt or agency, through which all produce of members is sold; and, third, coöperative purchase of the principal articles required by members. When we have carefully examined coöperation under these three headings, and with due regard to the important element of human nature as it is (not as it ought to be), the deductions arrived at should enable us to see whether successful coöperation is possible, and attempt to accomplish expedient, at the present time.

Dealing now with proposal No. 1, selling at a fixed price. Assuming that an energetic advocate of coöperation succeeded in inducing a majority of the bee-keepers in our State to bind themselves not to sell below the price fixed by the management of the coöperation, there would still be a considerable number of honey producers whom even the most sanguine promoters could not hope to bring into the combination till it had proved satisfactory and of advantage to them to join. In the meantime, these outsiders would supply the demands of the market, and when their stocks became exhausted the coöperation would become coöperative were it not for supplies pouring in from other States and supplying the markets which, geographically, belong to the members of the coöperation, which would, as a natural result, break up.

Against this view it may be urged that coöperation, to be effective, must include all the States of the Commonwealth. But

who, I ask, could accomplish this task of organizing into one body producers scattered over such an immense area, with so widely differing conditions and natural resources? And how are prices to be fixed of a product such as honey, differing so widely in different localities, in quality, quantity, methods of production and distance from markets? How many members would resist an offer for their entire season's crop at a price a small fraction below that fixed by the coöperation? And what penalties could the management inflict upon seceding members? The answer to the question, Is coöperation, as so far considered, possible, and the attempt to accomplish it advisable? must inevitably be No.

Dealing next with the second proposal, that of a central depôt or agency, we meet, first of all, the same difficulty, already discussed under the first heading, namely, that of organization of widely separated units; next, the inclination of human nature to take advantage of opportunities for immediate individual gain, even at the risk of future loss. Then the difficulty of finding the necessary capital, and, last but not least, the influence of centralization on the consumption of honey.

With the difficulties of organizing have already briefly dealt, and they are apparent, or should be, to every beekeeper who has watched the efforts of the Victorian Apiarists' Association to draw together for their mutual benefit the bee-keepers of this State, so that need say little more on this subject. Of comparative failure to achieve the object we have been striving for has been due to the want of the funds necessary to initiate an organization, membership which should be a distinct advantage to the individual producer.

But how can anything be accomplished when, on the one hand, those who are benefited refuse to find sufficient means to make a start, although quite ready to share later on in any benefit after an enterprise has been established by others.

Sept. 1908

**Want and**

**FOR SALE**—colonies, with particulars to Woodstock, Ont.

**FOR SALE**—(tracting), and bush, good walled stable (frame), cut 5 to 6 tons trees. Good road 6 miles, Lavan Railway. Cash BLAKE, Donal

**WANTED**—C State probable q up, etc. FOST Limited, Brantf

**FOR SALE**—for holding two walled, for single frames; made of than cost of lumber. G. A. DEA

**WANTED**—La light sewing at time, good pay; charges paid; see particulars.

NATIONAL M.

HOTEL AC

ALBION HOT \$1.00 and \$1.50 HOLDERNESS,

Though printed crooked the Fact is STRAY

Gunn, Law