

is a Continental one, it would seem to be appropriate that some notice should be taken of it by this Convention. With your permission I will state a few facts, and leave it to those present to say whether the work of the Union shall be approved by them or not.

Last June Mr. S. I. Freeborn, an extensive apiarist of Wisconsin, was sued by a neighbor, who kept a flock of sheep, for alleged annoyance to his sheep by trespassing bees.

It was understood that this was to be a "test case," and if the plaintiff succeeded in obtaining a verdict in his favor, either by the ignorance or prejudice of a jury, other bee-keepers would be likely to be sued to recover damages done to pastures, vineyards and gardens by bees; and any one owning a few square rods of land, devoted to almost any purpose, may try to recover damages from all the owners of bees in the vicinity.

Mr. James Heddon suggested the formation of a Bee-Keepers' Union in defense of their rights, and to protect their interest. Such a Union was formed, and officers elected as follows:

President—James Heddon.  
 Five Vice-Presidents—G. M. Doolittle,  
 G. W. Demaree, A. I. Root,  
 Prof. A. J. Cook, Dr. C. C. Miller.  
 Manager, Sec'y & Treas.—T. G. Newman.

The officers were made an Advisory Board, with full power to act.

This Union, as soon as organized, employed attorneys, obtained "opinions of law" from bee-keepers who were also attorneys, and made *such a stir* in the sheep-bees case, showing such fighting enthusiasm, that the Judge made a thorough examination of the laws of the State, and concluded that there existed no laws or rulings upon which he could instruct the jury; and bee-keepers have cause for *pride* in the success that attended their efforts in this matter.

In California a suit has been tried in a Justice's Court against Mr. Bohn for alleged damage done to grapes by his bees. This suit was lost in the lower Court, because witnesses were obtained who testified that they had seen the perforation and destruction of the grapes done by Mr. Bohn's bees. In vain did the defendant's attorneys prove by a score of witnesses that the bee's tongue could only be used to extract sweets from the flowers—not to bore after them. The evidence of the eye-witnesses of the plaintiffs had weight with the jury, and they accordingly returned a verdict against the defendant for \$75 and costs of suit, which amounted to over \$60. The damages claimed were \$299.

The National Bee-Keepers' Union advised Mr. Bohn to appeal from the decision of the Justice's Court, and assured him that the Union would stand by him, and aid in the appeal by

sending money, obtaining legal advice, depositions from scientific experts as to the incapability of bees to puncture grapes, etc. The appeal has been taken, and our California brethren are now busily at work getting members for the Union there.

A California apiarist says: "If it goes against us in the higher Court, there will be no end of the trouble that will arise, and our bee-industry will receive a death-blow in Southern California."

An apiarist in Anaheim, Calif., had the fence around his apiary torn down, all his bees killed by sulphur, the hives piled up under a valuable pepper-tree and consumed by fire. Another apiarist was threatened with hanging—all because some fruit-growers had moved into the neighborhood after his apiary had been established several years, and they wanted to compel him to move away with his bees.

As a Continental body of apiarists, have you no word of encouragement for an organization created for the purpose of defending the rights and protecting the interests of the bee-keepers of America? Do you say: "Let us co-operate, and, if necessary, maintain our rights as bee-keepers in the highest courts of the land?" That can be done only by having sufficient money to defray the expenses, and such are usually very high. To be sure, it will be a small matter, if all will bear their part of the burden. One thousand dollars of expenses when divided between 1,000 persons, is only a dollar for each, and can easily be borne; but when one has to pay it all, it becomes a heavy burden; and, to many, one that would be impossible to bear. United effort is essential to successfully defend our chosen pursuit!

The National Bee-Keepers' Union needs strong hearts, willing hands, and many shekels. Are you willing to help? Is your name enrolled among the "National Guards?" If not, lose no time in becoming a member, and thus help to fight the battles of our pursuit in defense of its rights! If we can raise a column of patriots sufficiently strong to present a formidable front, we shall *dare* the envious ones to "bring on their lawsuits," and by "an imposing array" and "an unbroke front," gain a lasting and permanent victory!

Mr. S. T. Pettit said that it was necessary to band together to defend ourselves.

Rev. W. F. Clarke said, "United we stand." He would prefer to have the National Bee-Keepers' Union consolidated with the North American Bee-Keepers' Society if it is possible. He was one of the first in Canada to join the Union, and said that if it was not consolidated, we must co-operate with the Union in the