

# UNITED STATES BEE-KEEPERS' UNION MEETING

Co-operation of Bee-keepers, by George W. Brodbeck, Los Angeles, California.

We are living in an age when the presentation of practical problems is commanding more attention than at any time in the world's history.

We meet with evidences of this on every hand; the labor agitations, the manufacturing combines, the various exchanges and other co-operative organizations, all point to one object, and that is, to advance and protect the interests represented.

The existing state of things to-day demand just such organizations, and no class can stand aloof and expect to successfully combat surrounding influences without organization. The producing element to which we belong should be especially interested in the solution of this problem, but, unfortunately, we are, as yet, in a chaotic state, drifting about on the sea of circumstances, hoping for the good that "might have been" but never comes.

The conditions that present themselves to the bee-keepers of the United States to-day are not theories but plain, everyday facts, and you can scarcely refer to a copy of any of our bee journals that does not contain an article bearing on some of the evils now existing. The theories advanced have been more numerous than the colors of the rainbow; some claiming that it is due to over-production, while another that it is under consumption, others that adulteration is the cause, while, last but not least of all, improper distribution is responsible.

The first course of a physician with a diseased patient is a proper diagnosis of the case, and we claim that the diseased condition of our industry has been diagnosed minutely, and every one of the symptoms referred to proved to exist, and if this is true, we have reached the most serious stage of our industry, for if adulteration exists to the extent claimed, and continued, what will be the result? If there is an over-production and the output on the increase, where is our remedy?

If it is under-consumption in one section and vice-versa in another, how are we going to equalize this? If over-production is nothing more than the result of improper distribution, where is our machinery to relieve this state? The remedial stage is the most difficult of all to the experimental physician, but to the man of experience the selection of a remedy is not an experiment, for positive results always follow positive remedies.

In our present state we also have a positive remedy, and while we do not claim them a "cure all" for every ill that besets the bee industry, we do claim it has proved its efficacy in the cure of the diseased state of kindred industries, and we do not hesitate to second the advocacy of co-operation as a positive remedy for our own relief, and it is evident that what it has done for other producers it can do us. Co-operation in this state has completely revolutionized former methods in the disposal of the various industrial products. The thrifty, wide-awake producer, who, a few years ago, saw nothing but disaster staring him in the face; with the grip of the middle man tightening his grasp more and more as the years passed by, with a far distant market, a perishable product, prohibitory freight rates and many other seemingly insurmountable difficulties; all of which have been overcome by the indomitable will and perseverance of the California fruit power. The California Bee-keepers' Exchange, although of recent growth, is proving a potent factor this, its first season's experience, in the upholding of prices, reducing the cost of supplies to its membership to a minimum, and instilling a feeling of protection that never existed before, and we predict that if the business of this organization is conducted in accordance with the outlined footsteps of the California fruit growers like success is sure to follow.

Co-operation has its opponents as well as exponents, and there will be those present who will take decided issue with the views