

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. VII, No. 6.

BRANTFORD, ONT., DEC., 1899.

WHOLE NO
418.

Conventions

THE UNITED STATES BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

Held at Philadelphia, September, 1899.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

From the American Bee Journal.

Once again we have assembled from the West, North and the South in this beautiful City of Brotherly Love, in which American freedom began its flight. In the years that have rolled along, the busy bee has kept pace with the iron horse in her course toward the Western sunset, and to-day she gathers sweet nectar from the flowers that bloom from every hillside, valley, glen, and far out on the prairies, and the breezes are wafted to the home of the honey-bee from the shores of the Atlantic, the broad Pacific, and from the Gulf.

NOT A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The year now rapidly drawing to a close has not been a prosperous one for our chosen avocation, and while a few of us have a goodly supply of the products of the apiary, the great majority are compelled to report rather light results. Following an unusually rigorous winter, a spring wet and cold, with a warm, dry summer, there is little else to expect save the content of light stores.

FOUL BROOD.

It is said that opportunities of some kind present themselves once in a lifetime to every man—to this, women might be added—and to us the subject of foul brood has been the all-absorbing topic during the past season. While this

disease has been thoroughly discussed pro and con, yet when one comes to tackle it, or to have it attack him, it is quite another phase of the argument. In my experience with foul brood this season I have learned that it readily yields to the treatment in which the colony is compelled to use what stores they have in their sacs for comb-building, and that it is not necessary to destroy either hive, frames, or wax, as these may be so easily and thoroughly renovated of all traces of this disease that in no case has it appeared in the apiary a second time after treatment.

RELATION OF BEES TO FLOWERING PLANTS.

The relation of the bee to flowering plants is a subject of importance. Experiments made by the Government show the benefits of a thorough cross fertilization of plants, especially of their own species. In-breeding was for a divine purpose forbidden, and in no case is this sooner to be observed than in plants and fruits. An All-Wise designer placed the nectar beneath the blossom for the sole purpose of attracting the honey and pollen gatherer thither for the purpose of cross fertilization. Nearly all of our fruit blossoms are hermaphrodite—they carry both sexes within themselves—yet a great many are utterly incapable of self-fertilization, as in the apple, cherry, strawberry, and hundreds of others which I might name. In the strawberry, in order to produce a perfect fruit will require the separate fertilization of from one to three hundred, and the dark-green masses to be found in almost any dish of strawberries are only evidences of imperfect fertilization. In the raspberry and blackberry every little rounded mass has required the visitation of an insect in order for fertilization.

The need of bee-keepers is to get into closer touch with the horticulturist, to convince him that we are his friends, and that when our bees visit his orchard and