

Although friend Hutchinson made such a good report, "the half is not told." The address of Mr. T. G. Newman on the Bee-keepers' Union, of which a brief but good synopsis is given, was worth going a long way to hear. He never does things by halves, and it was a rare treat to listen to Prof. Cook's talk on the work done and to be done at the Michigan college, by him, for the benefit of the bee-keeping world; and to hear Drs. Miller and Tinker, A. I. Root, Ernest, Mr. Calvert and others talk of the mysteries of bee-keeping, and relate their experience (as a Baptist would say), and to listen to the methods employed in far-off Florida as told by J. Z. Detwiler, cannot be classed with the small pleasures of attending such a gathering.

It would have done your laughable heart good to have heard Messrs. T. G. Newman, Dr. Miller the president and others go for friend Root for quoting "manufactured stock" in *Gleanings*' market reports, and hear him try to lay the blame on the boys. I never saw him so completely beaten before. The laugh was surely on him.

There are lots of things that the best reporters can't put down: the cordial greetings, the friendship making, the genial intercourse, etc., and if bee-keepers want to enjoy these, attend all these gatherings it is possible to attend. It may not pay in dollars and cents always, but what do we live for.

That you may not make a big blunder when you come to Ohio, and not be able to find *Wagon Works*, I send you a map of the state that shows you where it is, and if Ohio did, on last Tuesday, vote to protect "Mary's little lamb," you don't need to get mad about it, and for fear you may not know just the condition that "lamb" was in a few days ago, I will just give you a little campaign doggerel about it:

Mary sheared her little sheep,  
And took the wool to spin it,  
Grover took the tariff off,  
• And then she had to skin it.

But the little sheep that are left are in better shape to go into "winter quarters" than they were before the election.

Yours, as ever,

A. B. MASON.

P.S.—I have been trying for some time past to give you my experience on putting into winter quarters early, but my memoranda have been mislaid and I can't find it, and as I did not tax my memory with it, I must let it go till it is found.—A.B.M.

Auburndale, O., Nov. 10, 1888.

Read the grand array of premiums offered on page 696 of this issue.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### STRAW HIVES.

**I**N your issue of the 23rd May last you say you would be glad to know how my bees wintered in straw hives. A year ago we packed sixty-four stocks on their summer stands in outside cases. They had the same packing, the same quilts of wool over them, the same depth of rims to raise the hives from the bottom-boards and the same stores. Twelve of these were in straw hives having the combs running diagonally towards the centre. Every one of these twelve wintered perfectly, there being only two quarts of dead bees from the lot. Of the remaining 52 only 32 were alive on the 1st of June, and several of these were very weak. Each of the twelve in straw hives swarmed, and from them I took seven dozen sections, very little it is true, but it was the only surplus we had from 105 stocks put away last fall.

Dr. Dzierzon recommends straw hives "on account of the heat-retaining properties of their material."

Mr. Alfred Neighbor, in his work on "The Apiary," says:—"A very prevalent opinion exists that bees do better in hives of straw than any other, this material being warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and more equable in temperature at all times, slightly ventilating and allowing of absorption. Straw prevents dampness hanging about within, and tends to keep the inmates more healthy."

Allow me to correct your mistake in supposing that a person in London is the inventor of the machine for making straw hives. Neighbor says:—"The square straw hives and a machine for making them, exhibited in the Austrian department of the International Exhibition of 1862, suggested the idea of employing that material for English frame hives." Mr. Neighbor has kept them in stock ever since that time. I purpose changing my hives as soon as I can do so conveniently.

S. CORNELL.

Lindsay, 8th November, 1888.

### O. B. K. A. PROGRAM.

**D**EAR Sirs,—Please tell Observer that the program of annual meeting is under way and in the hands of a committee that will do everything in their power to make the annual meeting a success. In the meantime any suggestions from members to the secretary or President will be thankfully received. I second the motion of Observer to have the badges sent to members then when we all meet on the train for Owen Sound what a hum there'll be.

MARTIN EMIGH

Holbrook, Ont.

President O.B.K.A.