

The next topic taken up was

LEGISLATION FOR BEE-KEEPERS.

The President opened the discussion by explaining that, at the last meeting, a committee had been appointed to consider the question of legislation. He had not corresponded with the other members of the committee, but, as the chairman, he must report that he supposed the report must be an adverse one. He felt, however, that the matter had been entirely misunderstood; everyone had seemed to believe that he wished a law that would recognize the rights of priority, and all arguments were based upon this assumption. He had not yet reached the stage of saying what ought to be done, but, from the bottom of his heart, he believed that legislation was desirable, although it might not be feasible.

Dr. A. B. Mason sympathised with the President in his views.

Frank Wilcox failed to see how legislation could be feasible, unless bees should be exempted from taxation and then the business licensed.

Mr. J. Bull objected to this plan on the ground that some millionaire might buy the license to a whole state.

President Miller remarked: "How about farming, can't a man control as much land as he can pay for?"

Prof. Cook, thought, as the matter now stood, no legislation was needed. Were the business carried on by specialists legislation might be desirable, but at present, specialists are few and scattering, and legislation would be superfluous, and he offered the following resolution: "That in the present stage of bee-culture, legislation is neither desirable nor feasible." The next topic was a paper entitled:

OBJECTS AND METHODS OF A THOROUGH ORGANIZATION OF THE BEE-KEEPERS OF NORTH AMERICA.

A philosopher once said, "My object is not to make people read, but to make them think." My desire is to cause them to act—for action gives results! I would endeavor to inspire you to undertake a "progressive step" in the direction of organization! I intend to merely outline the benefits to accrue from united effort, and to state very briefly the probable effects of the plan proposed. Said one of old, "I believe, and therefore have I spoken." I, too, have believed in the exalted possibilities of the North American Bee-Keeper's Society, and have for nearly a dozen years labored zealously for the realization of the fond hopes so long entertained.

The pursuit of modern and progressive apiculture is yet in its infancy. It has grown rapidly and its development has been accompanied by science, art and invention at every step; so that to-day (even in its infancy) it is really a giant! standing almost without a parallel in the history of industrial pursuits—its devotees in North

America to-day numbering 7,300,000 persons; and its annual product of honey amounting to 100,000,000 of pounds, and its value being about fifteen millions of dollars.

Is it not true that our national government is founded upon the principle that "in union there is strength?" And after passing the ordeal of the greatest "civil war" of modern times, is to-day the strongest and best in the world? Its constitution and laws are "the bulwark" of all our privileges and liberties! It guarantees to us also the full benefit and peaceful enjoyment of our organized labors!

What we need is organized effort, unity of labor, and concert of action, upon all matters where "our interests are in common!" To accomplish this we ought to patriotically sink all our minor differences and organize to defend our pursuit, watch our interests, and defend our rights. A thorough organization is our only "strong tower of defense," and will command lawful attention and commercial respect.

But some may ask, "what do we desire to accomplish?" To answer this let us enumerate some of the suggestions during the intervening year, since last we met:

Has not a "honey producers' association" been proposed to control the selling prices of the honey product? A strong but conservative society would best serve that purpose.

Have we not heard about the necessity for obtaining reliable apicultural statistics? What could be better adapted to this purpose than an Inter-national Society?

Has not a proposition been made to ask for legislation in favor of granting protection to bee-keepers within a certain territory? What could authoritatively decide whether such legislation is desirable or not, but such an apicultural organization?

Some of our principal wants are a systematic encouragement of bee and honey shows at fairs; providing bee-tents for such bee-exhibitions; inaugurating a system of education of bee-keepers, and by certificate or otherwise guaranteeing to those who wish to hire assistants, that they possess a practical knowledge of the business for which they are wanted.

These "wants" could all be provided for, and satisfied in a better manner, by a well-organized society, than in any other way.

Then again, it has often been advised that the constitution of this society should be amended so as to make it a representative society. In the minutes of a former meeting we find the following:

The committee on revision of the Constitution find that the North American Bee-Keepers' Society should be composed of delegates from all the local societies,