

them, a few will begin to stir slowly, and, if held long enough, the whole colony will raise an uproar. When viewed from the top, by lifting the covering over them a few will slowly stir, perhaps putting out their stings and giving off a buzzing sound, as much as to say. "We wish you would go off and leave us." When in this condition, I consider that colony wintering splendidly. If, on the contrary, I am greeted with bees flying to the light as soon as I enter the cellar, and upon looking at the cluster at the bottom of the combs they are found all uneasy, crawling about and ready to fly at the light, with the hives full of restless bees clear to the end of the frames at the top, I know that unless this colony can be gotten quiet, they will prove of little or no value in the spring, if this happens as early in the season as the middle of February, while the colony will be much damaged if as late as the middle of March.

Another correspondent writes, wishing to know whether his cellar is suitable for bees' saying, "It is frost-proof, with a dry earthen floor, well ventilated, but there is usually stored in it all the vegetables used by the family, and frequently from 30 to 100 bushels of apples. Are these injurious to the bees? If not, I should like to store my bees in this cellar in years to come."

I should consider the cellar suitable for wintering bees, and the presence of the apples and vegetables no objection, if the temperature can be controlled between 43 and 48°. If the temperature can not be thus controlled, I should prefer to winter the bees on their summer stands. If I had been successful, or even comparatively so, in the past, I would go slow on the cellar, trying only a few in it the first year, putting in more and more each winter, according as I was successful. Decaying vegetables should not be allowed in any cellar, whether there are bees in it or not; and the bees should not be disturbed, by jarring or otherwise, when entering the cellar after anything stored there.

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Borodino, N. Y.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

President's Address

READ AT THE NORTH AMERICAN BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION, AT ALBANY N. Y.

THE labors and experiences of another season are ended, and its lessons largely learned. A bee-keeper of my acquaintance devotes this part of the year to a careful comparison of the main points in the season's

experience with those of previous years. The facts are then still fresh in mind, and the conclusions are useful. In proof that he is eminently successful in his business, I might mention his name but for fear of his modest presence with us. So we, in convention assembled, may compare our varied experiences during the season just closed, and, on doubtful points, gather wisdom more rapidly and cheaply than to work it out in our own bee-yards.

With so large a crop in one part of our country that the markets are surfeited, while much of the remaining portion is begging for choice comb honey, it may be that we shall learn a useful lesson on the distribution of our products. What are the hindrances to a better distribution of honey?

1. Our method of marketing, which hurries it off to market without waiting to learn where it is needed.

2. Freight rates are too high, and, what is worse, honey is handled carelessly by railroad men, making it difficult to reach distant markets.

After signing a release and loading and unloading his own honey, the bee-keeper is charged double the rates he ought to pay, by these servants of the people.

A recent ruling, which compelled the shipper to cover the glass, that has been used for a score of years, chiefly to secure more careful handling, is a fair sample of the treatment we receive.

This association should vigorously protest against this unwarranted interference with our rights, and a committee should be appointed to work diligently until reduced rates and better treatment are secured. We have had such a committee in our State Association, but we need a united effort throughout the country.

3. Lack of uniformity of packages and grading is a barrier to a proper distribution. What is accepted in one market is not in another. Put up the honey to meet the demands of the markets to which it is sent, has been the advice. This sounds too much like the cry of the sensational or Sunday newspaper man, who says, "We publish what the people demand," and the paper gets down lower and lower all the time. The people are often not the best judges of their needs, and often have to be educated.

Starting with the two-pound box, glassed, we have successfully met and catered to the demand for one-pound sections, glassed and un-glassed, full weights and light weights, paper cartons and pasteboard boxes, wood and mica sides, thick (2-inch) boxes and thin boxes, 1½, 1½ down to 1¼-inch, square boxes and tall boxes, until there is the greatest diversity in packages,