

WHAT THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION WILL DO THIS YEAR

As most bee-keepers know, the meeting of the Board of Directors held in Detroit, Feb. 23rd, 1911 was probably the most important of any Board meeting held in the history of the Association. Plans of re-organization had to be considered as well as just what the Association would and should do for its members.

One of the most important needs of the bee-keepers, as it appeared to the Directors, was an accurate knowledge of crop conditions. To get this it was decided to send out crop reports early in the season to every member, and from the information so obtained, advise the members, either direct or through the bee journals, as to the conditions.

The Board also found that the question of honey packages was an important one. At the present time, there is not near the uniformity there should be. No special weight of tin or size of can has been adopted in the past and many shippers were using a tin entirely too light. Samples of honey cans were inspected by the Board with the decision that the Secretary be instructed to make the best possible arrangements for furnishing the members with the tin honey packages the coming season. The orders will be handled directly through the Association office and will not be sent by the member to the can manufacturers as in the past.

In discussing the question of packages for comb honey, and realizing that there are a number of different kinds and shapes in the market, it was thought best that in order to promote uniformity of a comb honey package, the Association should take steps to secure for its members, at the lowest possible prices, the double tier, 24-lb, shipping case, which

was adopted by the Association at its last convention.

These cases could be furnished according to specifications so that every member buying through the National would be using exactly the same case as every other member. In order to induce a more general adoption, it was thought advisable to furnish them at a low price. The secretary was also instructed to investigate paper shipping-cases, as well as glass packages. This action was not taken with an idea of getting into the supply business, but to promote the using of uniform packages by the members, which then will simplify the question of marketing and eventually raise the price the bee-keepers can obtain.

The question of marketing honey was thoroughly considered and many plans were presented. The one finally decided upon was that for the coming season, the National Association should act in the capacity of a broker for its members where desired. It is not expected or desired that all members will ship their honey through the Association, but realizing that many are not in touch with the best markets, it was thought that a better move could be made than to assist those members in obtaining the proper return for their honey crop. To do this selling agencies will be established in several of the larger cities, and the sales will be directed through the Association. A member having honey to sell could first get instructions from the Secretary, who is expected to keep in close touch with market conditions, take into consideration the freight rates, and then give the member full instructions as to shipment. The Association does not intend to buy and sell honey, but simply to assist the producers in finding the best possible market.

The promotion of local branches will be encouraged and wherever a local branch desired to get out a booklet, such as has been used by the Michigan

Association, assistance the National Association will be encouraged. This booklet will be of National but will probably be the four Bee Journals

Your
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HURON COUNTY BEE ASSOCIATION

The Huron County Bee Association held their first annual meeting in the Council Chamber at 14th. The attendance was doubt the rough roads kept quite a few away. The disposal was rather limited the train service, and a.m. to 4 p.m.—too short for beekeepers. The election of officers and discussion of the question of honey packages were better brought up considerable time. The seven directors to represent locations of the county and bee-keepers in their neighborhood, resulted as follows: McPherson, Exeter; L. E. Alfred B. Carr, Blyth; Whitechurch; Noble N. Brown, Port Albert. Officers elected are: James Green, Hensall; Isaac Dodd, Clinton; secretary, Zurich.

Mr. Morley Pettit addressing in the afternoon and rally on "the production of honey" showing at the same time a modern 10-frame hive with necessary appliances and tools. A board with fruit-jar feeder shown, and its use fully explained. Feeder seems to gain in favor.