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THE NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION.

THE Sixteenth Annual Convention of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society met at Detroit, Mich., on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, at 10 a.m., President L. C. Root in the chair. Quite a large number of bee-keepers were present from 10 States and Canada; all were very enthusiastic, and as "sweet as honey."

After an impressive invocation by the Rev. L. L. Langstroth, the Secretary called the roll of members for last year. Those present paid their dues and received their badges, among them being six ex-presidents of the Society.

The Treasurer reported \$48.90 in the treasury. It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, as they had been published in all the bee-papers, and it was not necessary to lose time in reading them.

Mr. A. F. Manum, Vice-President for Vermont, reported the honey crop of that State, for the present season, to be 160 tons.

Mr. Wm. G. Gibbons, Vice-President for Delaware, in his report, says:

The year 1885 has been an exceedingly unpropitious one for bee-keepers in this part of the country. The warm weather which usually sets in by April 10th, was procrastinated until near the beginning of May, and during both April and May cold rain-storms were frequent. The result was that the bees got to work 15 days later than usual. The white clover, which is in this section the best and almost only bee-pasturage, did not seem to be well supplied with nectar, and the season of its bloom was exceptionally short: consequently the colonies gathered a very small supply of surplus honey, and few swarms issued. Generally the colonies are in good condition for entering upon the coming winter, and seem to be healthy.

Mr. Arthur Todd, Vice-President for Pennsylvania, made the following report for the year 1885:

The winter of 1884-85 proved disastrous to many bee-keepers in the State of Pennsylvania, and as regards a honey harvest—practically there was none. The fall crop of honey has likewise been a complete failure, and bees go into winter quarters in bad condition, unless fed on sugar syrup. I have taken pains during my business journeys, and in my correspondence, to

learn the actual results of bee-keeping this year in this State for many a mile distant from Philadelphia, and I think that the word "disastrous" will best express the general feeling as to the results.

I regret that I am unable to meet the brethren in convention assembled; it is a great disappointment to me.

Mr. H. F. Hunt, Vice-President for Quebec, Canada, reported as follows:

The knowledge of bee-culture, by the improved methods of manipulation, is still in its extreme infancy in Quebec, and has only within the past few years begun to be disseminated among the people, the southern and south-western parts having more bee-keepers than the other parts. There are numerous box-hive bee-keepers throughout the country, who still take their honey by the old-fashioned method of "brimstoning"—a method which I hope is now on its "last legs." My report, therefore, will not bear comparison with that of our sister Province—Ontario—but I hope that in the not far distant future, we shall be able to make as good a showing. The success attending the labors of bee-keepers in Ontario, will act as a stimulus to those in Quebec.

In common with the rest of the North American Continent, the losses last winter were heavy, but bee-keepers, as a rule, have not been much discouraged, and are hoping for better success this winter. Our losses were not so heavy as those farther south, which I attribute to our being compelled to protect the bees well, on account of the severe cold which once or twice every winter touches 30° below zero, the average being 5° to 10° above.

I have not received as many responses as I could wish, to my request for reports, but I generalize from what I did receive. The past season has been a very poor one indeed, owing to the extraordinary cold season, which seriously curtailed brood-rearing and the secretion of nectar, in some parts of the Province, notably in the vicinity of Lake Megantic, and in the county of Beauce. The spring was so dry that certain crops had to be replanted, and would, no doubt, have acted unfavorably to the secretion of nectar in the white clover. Some honey was gathered from basswood, which yields more freely to the south than to the north of the St. Lawrence. Fall flowers also have not given much, and many colonies have had to be fed for winter.

The following persons were recorded as members for the present year:

G. A. Adams, Perrysburg, O.
J. H. Andrus, Almont, Mich.
Geo. H. Ashby, Albion, N. Y.
H. J. Ashley, M. D., Machias, N. Y.