

* The Apiary *

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER'S ASSOCIATION.



BEE-KEEPERS as well as fruit growers have their calling advanced by means of conventions. Not only are those profited who attend in person, but the report of the proceedings finding its way into the press give readers some of the most advanced ideas upon the subject in hand. The North American Bee-keepers Association takes in the largest territory of any bee-keeper's association in the world.

It is international in character, and certainly amongst its members may be found the most extensive and practical men engaged in the bee-keeping industry. The last convention has just been held in Chicago, the date being Oct. 11th, 12th and 13th. In reporting the proceedings, much of interest has, of course, transpired, which is not of practical value to those having a few colonies only. The best will be selected for the readers of the HORTICULTURIST.

An address was given by Prof. A. J. Cook upon the subject "Apiculture at our Experiment Stations." It would appear almost incredulous that in the United States \$705,000 are spent annually to develop new truths, and further the interests of agriculture. And out of that, barely \$2,000 thus far, of it spent for the development of truths and further the interest of apiculture; that means not one-three hundred and fiftieth. When we come to Canada the state of affairs is even worse. We have no government experimental work at all. For many reasons, some of them given in previous numbers of the HORTICULTURIST, bee-keeping is an important branch of agriculture, aside from the value of the honey produced. In Canada this is even more the case, the Dominion did not make an exhibit of honey; this is to be regretted. She has lost a rare opportunity of showing what her resources are in this direction. For nothing will prove to a foreigner more quickly a country's adaptability to agriculture than an exhibit of her fruit and honey.

Ontario has, however, acquitted herself well. The quality of honey is excellent, and there is no doubt that she will secure quite a large proportion of awards. Her comb honey is the best, only one sample from Michigan even approaching the best Ontario sample. It is with some pride that I say even Americans admit the best comb honey is from Brantford. At the World's Fair were samples of honey from many foreign countries, and rarely indeed could even an individual sample be found equal to Canadian, and none superior. Again from foreigners I found that the honey which we produce in largest quantity, is the honey which the British consumer has a liking for, and the British import from year to year, yes, month to month, large quantities of honey.