

The Ohio State Convention.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS READ.

The question of how to make our business pay best, is of vital interest to every one of us, especially at a time like the present, when competition with the sugar interests bear heavily on the prices of honey. The knowledge of economy in apiculture, and the art of producing the largest crops, is nowhere better elucidated than in our meetings.

Bee-keepers have no secrets, as is the case among the followers of many other pursuits. Perhaps all of us have gathered the most points from a personal exchange of ideas at bee-keepers' meetings.

The next question, and by no means the least, is—How can we market our honey best, and in what shape or manner offered, does it bring the best prices? These are the questions which bring us together, and the solution of which is exercising the brains of the best bee-keepers.

SPRING MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

Since extracted honey has almost become a staple article, every bee-keeper may decide for himself whether he should produce comb or extracted honey, or both. The main question with him is as to the best means to employ for the production of a large crop.

He may have the most prolific queens, his successful wintering may be an accomplished fact, and his colonies may be in a flourishing condition four or five weeks previous to the beginning of the honey harvest, but, misled by fine weather and the lively flight of his bees, he forgets that flowers, generally, yield no honey just at that period, and that the consumption of their stores is greatest when brood-rearing is at its best. Everything may seem prosperous to our sanguine friend until he sees dead larvæ at the alighting boards.

Upon examination he finds the hives full of bees, no stores, and little or no larvæ in the cells. The bees had found themselves short of food, hard times was staring them in the face, and, moved by the sense of self-preservation, they had sacrificed their young. They had pulled their larvæ out of the cells and out of the hives in order to make their stores hold out as long as possible.

His bees should have been fed four or five weeks previous to this time, and now they must be fed without delay, and they must have a plenty, so as to make them breed up again. But as it requires a time of three weeks before the first young bees will hatch out after the eggs are laid, and two weeks more before they become foragers, and as our honey harvests hardly ever last longer than four or five weeks, often less

than three weeks, the colonies will be in good condition again just in time to be too late for that season. The bee-keeper has lost the earnings of his year's labor, while, by a timely feeding, he would have secured a good crop of honey. It is just there where most bee-keepers make their mistake, and not beginners only commit that error.

The consumption of their Winter stores begins with brood rearing, and in the same ratio that the brood increases the stores decrease. The question whether more honey is consumed by out-door or in-door wintering is, therefore, immaterial. The difference is small. The old bees only are the foragers, while their young stay at home, taking care of the brood, preparing the cells for the reception of eggs and honey, ripen the honey, and close the cells when filled.

It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to have our colonies strong in old and young bees, and ready for the harvest at the time the season begins, which is, in southern Ohio, the latter part of May, the time white clover comes into bloom.

MARKETING OF THE HONEY CROP.

The marketing of honey proves often as difficult a matter as its production. Bee-keepers can form no "trusts," and their abilities and individual tendencies are differently developed. They seek a market where they can best find it. But the object of all should be to offer their honey in neat, clean packages.

Comb honey should always be put up in neat glass cases, or in neat cartoons, as the case may be. It should be properly graded as to quality. The sections should be clean, and no combs of dark color should be mixed with the white. The front row exposed to view, should always be a fair sample of the contents of the case.

One pound sections ($4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$) are the most saleable, while smaller ones are in no demand. Two pound sections also, nicely filled with white combs, find a ready sale in our market. We make but little difference, if any, in the price of the two. Consumers make a decided distinction between clover and basswood honey, while such is not the case with comb. Comb honey is a fancy article, and must be white. Its attractive appearance, principally, insures a ready sale.

HONEY AND SUGAR COMPETITION.

Extracted honey seems to have become a staple article in spite of all the obstacles put in its way. The bounty on sugar, with the exclusion of honey, discriminates against the production of bee-keepers, and is an injustice which Mr. McKinley and his committee would not have been guilty of had they been posted on the sub-