

to our big brother Jonathan; but it is not easy to be polite when you are put-out-of-doors. I have, perhaps, been the chief offender in this respect, and I most humbly withdraw and make apology for any improper utterances and uncharitable imputation of motives with which I may be chargeable. We probably indulge in greater freedom of speech than is common or deemed proper on your side of the lines, but we cherish at heart a kind and cordial feeling toward our fellow bee-keepers in the United States, and sincerely desire to live on terms of peace, good fellowship, and co-operation with them.

For the reasons above given, I would respectfully overture the Association, and earnestly beg of it to reconsider and revoke the act of incorporation, so as to restore the intimate and harmonious relations of past years. As one of the founders of the Association, and one of the oldest members, I think I may fairly claim a kind and indulgent consideration of this appeal.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM F. CLARKE.

E. R. Root—Inasmuch as the proposed change in the National Bee-keepers' Union, if it goes into effect, will enable the Union to perform the work that was in view for the North American when it was incorporated, and incorporation has caused a little unpleasantness between us and our Canadian brethren, it might be well to give up incorporation; but I would not counsel hasty action. There are not many here. I am the only member present of the original committee who proposed the feature of incorporation. It would only be fair to allow the others to be heard; hence I move that the matter be laid on the table one year, with a recommendation that it may be favorably considered at the next meeting. Carried.

Prior to the publication of the report just quoted, two paragraphs bearing on the subject had appeared in *Gleanings*; one a "stray straw" from Dr. Miller, and the other consisting of editorial comments by Mr. E. R. Root. The "stray straw" is as follows:—

"Rev. W. F. Clarke has reduced the 'bad five' to the 'big four,' but he does not say which of the five has been expelled. He talks real cross about the other four in the C. B. J."

Mr. E. R. Root's comments on the action taken at Washington are as follows:—

THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION ON INCORPORATION,

Our readers will remember that a few of our Canadian friends took umbrage because the bee keepers on this side of the line thought it good to have the N. A. B. K. A. incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. One of the prime movers in this protest was Mr. W. F. Clarke, and in accordance with his former published determination he sent in a paper protesting, and asking the association to rescind the articles. (On the principle that, "if meat maketh my brother to offend" etc., we moved (a motion that was carried) that the matter be laid on the table, with a recommendation that it be favorably considered at the meeting at Chicago. As we were the only member present of the original committee who proposed the feature of incorporation, and as the attendance at Washington was small, it did not seem to us that it would be fair to the other members of the committee, as well as to the greater number of those who usually attend and who were not present, to go ahead and rescind. But it may be asked, "Why should we consider the matter at all?" Simply this: As a few of the Canadians seem determined not to understand properly our motives, it is possible that we may set aside incorporation without detriment to the association; and particularly so as the Bee-keepers' Union now promises to do just exactly what the North American was expected to do under incorporation. If another year will prove this, then we could drop the articles of incorporation, and thus establish friendly feelings all around. We should not be surprised if the Chicago convention would vote to retain incorporation, because, as it is, it does no harm, and may do good.

In regard to Dr. Miller's "stray straw," a word or two of explanation seems to be necessary. I had spoken of five members of the Keokuk Convention as mainly responsible for the action then and there taken. These were Messrs. T. G. Newman, A. I. and E. R. Root, Dr. Miller and Dr. Mason. It was afterwards stated by Mr. E. R. Root that his father took no hand in the matter. This, of course, reduced the number to four, of whom I spoke facetiously, as the "big four." I do not think I used the expression the "bad five," although Dr. Miller has it in quotation marks. I am, far from, considering either the five or the four as a bad lot, though I think they acted badly at