

other channels, through the discoveries of science.

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### General Advice to Bee-Keepers.

I do not know how Secretary Mason came to assign me this topic, for it was none of my choosing, in fact I did not have any idea that I was to be on the program until I received notice that I must be on hand with a paper on the above subject. As I make it a point to obey the orders of my superiors, I could not do better than prepare the paper. The truth of the matter is, however, that Brother M. has struck me just right, for if there is anything on which I am strong, and at my best, it is in giving advice. True, I am compelled many times to say, in the language of the traditional preacher, "Do as I say and not as I do." However, let this be as it may, I am immense on advice. I am by advice as the doctor said he was with fits when reminded that the drug he was using was likely to produce them. He responded, using a word which is usually written with an h, a dash and an l, that he was that on fits and that was all right. He was safe if he could only throw his patient into fits, for he could cure them. Now that is the way I am on advice.

Perhaps it was a little oversight in the Maker of all things that I was not brought into being early in the history of mankind and made a sort of "director general of advice." Possibly I might have saved some people a good deal of trouble, even though it should have been at the risk of getting myself into worse trouble. For I want to tell you, that giving advice is not always the safest thing in the world. Many times those who need advice the most are inclined to resent it, and get "hot," as we say, if it is given to them, and a hot man, or woman either, for that matter, is not always an agreeable person to deal with.

But, as the preacher would say, "to return to my subject," the first advice I have to give is not to wait until you get into some trouble with your neighbors, and want some one to help you out before you think of joining the United States Beekeepers' Union. For if you do, you may not always get the help you need. "In times of peace prepare for war," for sometimes being "prepared for war" will enable you to keep the peace better than anything else. Having joined the Union, never ask its general manager to do anything for you which you can just as well do for yourself. Before you ask for help

at all, read the constitution of the Union carefully and be sure you understand its aim and purpose fully. Remember that it is no part of the Union's business to meddle with neighborhood or family difficulties, even though there may be something about bees mixed up with them. Do not ask the Union to aid you against your neighbor simply because you have a purely personal spite at him, and you think this will afford you an opportunity to "bring him to time." Nearly all of these personal difficulties can, and should be, settled without any help from the Union.

Do not expect too much of the Union at the start, or because you have paid your dollar for a few years, and not needed or gotten any help, conclude that you will save your money and not continue your membership. Fire comes when you least expect it, and for that reason a wise business man keeps his property insured all the time, and considers that the feeling of security which he has is abundant pay, even though the fire may never come.

You should remember also that a strong union is a benefit to the industry as a whole, and even though you may never want direct personal aid, yet you will indirectly be benefited, for whatever benefits the whole works more or less benefit to each individual part.

Do not get the notion that the Union is a sort of trust to force up the prices of honey, for when one man gets more for a thing, several men generally have to pay more for it. One trust is just as wicked as another. If it is wrong to corner wheat, flour, nails, oil, lumber, etc., it is just as wrong to form a pool on honey. It is all right to open new markets, create new demands in various ways, or to aid in delivering the crops to other and more profitable markets, but no union should form itself into a trust to regulate the price of food products. This should be left to demand and supply, whether the food be honey or something else. Those who attempt anything of the kind are enemies of society. Do not join in the general hue and cry about the useless middle man and swear he lives off other people's labor. Remember that whoever satisfies a desire is a producer, and that the man who opens a market is as much entitled to pay for his labor as the man who helps the bees produce a crate of honey. There will be tradesmen as long as the world stands, and according to the theory of the evolutionist, that which survives is the fittest.

Do not conclude that it is because something is out of joint politically that you