

United States Bee-Keepers' Union Convention

Held at Omaha, Neb., Sept. 13th, 14th and 15th.

President's Address.

Once more we meet in annual convention; and once more west of the great "Father of Waters." Much of importance had transpired within the short year since last we assembled. Another honey season has come and gone. The year's record can soon be completed. Judging from reports received, in many regions of our country the season has been a very poor one; in a few localities it has been one of abundant yields of honey. In view of this condition, it would seem that the ruling price of honey should be higher than last year. Whether or not it will be, will depend much upon those who have the honey to sell. If like many who rushed their honey to the large city markets last year, the price this year will not be high. But if it is kept out of the large centers as much as possible, and sold more in the local or home markets, there should be no difficulty experienced in securing a good price.

But my address to day is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of the proper methods of marketing honey—that may well be left to this convention, the members of which have had much more experience in that line than have I.

If we may judge from the general and almost overwhelming increase in the business of manufacturing bee-keepers supplies, and the demand for them, this year, there has been an unprecedentedly large growth the past year or two in the industry which we all have the honor to represent. It seems that many of the apiarian manufactories have never had in succession two such large seasons' business as the past two have been. This of itself indicates a development quite beyond the ordinary expectation. It means, I think, that those who were in the business heretofore have been enlarging their apiaries, and that many new recruits have come into our ranks, to begin the business of honey-production.

On account of the smallness of the bee itself many of our new friends might be led to the conclusion that there is little to be learned concerning its management, and not much financial profit to be obtained. But not so. Some of the wisest men of the centuries gone by have devoted

much of their lives to a study of the habits and management of the little, busy bee. The apiarian galaxy of immortals includes the names of Huber the blind, Dzierzon, Quinby and Larzstroth, who completed their labors and are now entered into well-merited reward. Of the present time leaders who have gained enviable notoriety, may be named, Doolittle, Miller, the Dadants, Root and Cook. Of course there are many others almost equally prominent, both of the past and of the present, who might be included did time permit to name them all.

By patient and painstaking investigation much has been discovered in relation to the usefulness of bees and their profitable care. But who shall say that the end of knowledge concerning them has been reached? Verily, there is neither beginning nor ending to the study of this wonderful insect. He who created it gave a most valuable gift to mankind. Not alone for the delicious honey it stores for man's use, but as an aid to the greatest success of the horticulturist the bee should be most highly valued. This is a feature of the bee's important work that cannot be too frequently mentioned, or too highly estimated. Often it has been very clearly shown that had it not been for the multitudinous visits of bees during the blossoming period, but little fruit would have resulted. Intelligent horticulturists of to-day encourage the keeping of bees in close proximity to their fruit orchards and groves.

Now, let me call your attention from a contemplation of the bee and its lofty place in the economy of Nature, down to a consideration of this organization, which is maintained in the interest of the producers of honey. It has noble and far-reaching objects to carry out, which are sufficiently important to easily justify its existence. But what we need to do at this convention, it seems to me, is to devise plans by which we shall be able to cause the bee-keepers of this land to see the need of their being active members in this organization. While some grand work has been done during the past two years, there remains much that needs to be accomplished, and very soon. The question is, How can it be done?

In the first place, I have contended all