

# The

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## Conventions

### The U. S. Bee-Keeper's Convention.

Possibilities and difficulties of Bee-Keeping in Cuba and Porto Rico, and the effect of our new relations With these islands on our Honey Market. —W. W. Somerford, Tex.

(Second Paper—Continued from Page 76)

Possibilities and difficulties—the subjects assigned myself and Mr. Craycraft and myself to discuss—are subjects that we both have had experience in, especially the difficulties. The main one encountered so far is a very serious difficulty, one that but few of Cuba's modern bee-keepers have escaped. So plentiful and so scattered is that terrible difficulty, that we have nearly all had a sight and a whiff of it. It is foul brood, scattered broadcast over the land, Cuba's fair and fertile land, the bee-keepers' paradise," except for foul brood.

The disease is one that some writers seem to think amounts to but little, yet I have known over \$200,000 worth of bees to be wrinkle out of existence from its ravages in Havana Province alone; and I know of hundreds of colonies on the road to sure and certain death, as we so far have escaped after contamination; and the afflicted ones have been hauled hither and thither until the question is with the knowing ones, where can I locate and be safe and set? Where, oh, where? The wise-tongued keeper on the island of Cuba would care to answer the question with any

certainly or assurance, for, if he did, he might "get left" as the most of us have. Yes, left without bees, with only infected hives and experience as future capital—and books (foul brood books) that tell all about how it can be cured so easily in the hands of the careful and studious; but, then, I have known men of culture, educated in the languages, graduates of our best universities, all to fail. Even common, practical men fail; men who have given the better part of their lives to bee-keeping fail. Fail when it comes to curing foul brood, where there is eternal sunshine and summer and big apiaries. All have failed so far in Cuba to cure the disease; and I consider it the only great "difficulty" that a bee-keeper has to contend with, or may have to encounter.

Mr. Craycraft wrote me a few days ago that the leading bee-keepers of the island had a move on foot, and were whooping it up, to establish a foul brood law, with an inspector to inspect and condemn all infected apiaries. The "leading bee-keepers," I will add, that are in the move, are the ones that foul brood has led out of the business. So the law, if passed, is sure to be effectual, as I understand one of their number is to be inspector, and will pass the death sentence where the disease is found. Then, Mr. Craycraft says, a bee-keeper can keep bees with a certainty of success, but not until then.

As to possibilities, they are great when it comes to bee-keeping and honey producing in Cuba. It will take time to tell the story as to what can be accomplished. I knew a bee-keeper to claim 40,000 pounds of fine white honey from 100 colonies in a single season, and I am sure better reports will come in the future