CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION U. S.

(By Gleaner.)

The convention which has just closed is said to have been the most largely attended in the history of the association. The large hall was crowded again and again and the ante-rooms had to be made use of. The president-elect owing to the absence of the president, had the chair, and performed his duties in a very pleasing and acceptable manner. To show the difference of opinion as to importance of subjects it was stated at different times that, "this is the most important subject before the convention.". It was remarkable that so many had come to the conclusion that natural swarming was a great hindrance to successful bee-keeping, the number of advocates of large hives was surprising, also the large proportion of "Dutchmen" at the convention. The first subject taken up was that by L. Stachelhausen Converse Texas.

Control of Increase.

"We know a number of ways to prevent swarming, one of the most practical ways to prevent or at least delay swarming is to use large hives, that is a large comb-surface, by which the bees can extend the brood nest in every direction. At the same time colonies in such large hives will develop faster during the spring and build up to stronger colonies than we can force such a development in smaller hives by spreading the brood and other laborious and dangerous manipulations. In a large hive with plenty of honey a healthy colony will develop to the greatest possible strength without any manipulation made by the bee-keeper.

It may be said that such large hives do not always and under all circumstances prevent swarming. This is true, but I have observed, if in an apiary 10-frame Langstroth hives are changed to larger ones the bees will swarm less by and by every year. In my locality the bees from hives not larger than 8 or 10 Langstroth frames swarm so much that one man could hardly manage an apiary of 100 colonies. I could tell you stories about the ways some of my bee-keeping neighbors acted to get rid of these surplus swarms. Since about 24 years I use larger hives and had no trouble of this kind anymore. This is a very important difference, if bees shall be kept in the least number of hives to make a profit-bearing business.

"In my locality the problem is to keep the bees from swarming till the main honey flow commences; during this flow the bees will not swarm, if they have not made preparations for it before this flow commenced. Under such conditions, hives as large as the Dadant hive will prevent swarming sufficiently in most years. In other years, which are more favorable for brood-rearing I have to watch my colonies more carefully. If I find a very strong colony with brood much extended I have to manipulate it, especially if I find queen cells started; it may be set as a rule, if we find 2500 sq. in. of comb surface occupied with brood, this colony will probably swarm soon even from a very large hive. The prevention of swarming may have different purposes. If we care not or are not willing to watch our colonies during swarming time we can make the swarms artificially a little earlier, as they would swarm naturally, but in this case we would get as much or even more increase. If we want less increase, we make so