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"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, AND INCORPORATION.

Presumably by an oversight, what passed at the Washington Convention in regard to the incorporation of the N.A.B.K.A. has not been reported in the C.B.J. As the matter is of special interest to Canadian beekeepers and is not yet finally settled, I beg leave to forward an extract from the official report, a couple of paragraphs from GLEANINGS, and a few explanations and comments of my own. The following is from the official report as it appeared in the A.B.J. of Feb. 16, 1893:—

#### RELINQUISHING INCORPORATION.

The Secretary read the following communication from Wm. F. Clarke of Guelph, Ont., Canada.

#### FELLOW BEEKEEPERS:

Being unable to attend your annual convention by reason of distance and cost of the journey, I beg to submit for your consideration a respectful remonstrance and protest against the action taken by the Association in regard to incorporation.

1. Because the said action was unconstitutional. By virtue of its original constitution repeatedly reaffirmed, the Association was international. At the outset both the United States and Canada were contracting parties. By virtue of the incorporation, the international feature of the Association has been destroyed, and the body has been converted into a local and State organization.

2. Because the action was taken with undue haste and without full discussion. At the Keokuk meeting, where the matter was literally rushed through, the at-

tendance was small, comprising but few of the older members, and none at all from the far East. Such an important step might at least have had a year's notice of motion, and full discussion in the bee periodicals.

3. Because the action was precipitated in the face and teeth of strong objection on the part of the two Canadian delegates, who forewarned the prime movers in the scheme, that those whom they represented would consider the proposed incorporation equivalent to an act of expulsion. The chief promoters of the scheme have since declared that they did not understand that Canadian beekeepers would regard it as an act of excommunication. It has been demonstrated that the Canadian delegates present at Keokuk were right in their judgment. Their clients, assembled at the annual meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association in January last, unanimously took this view of the matter.

4. Because the act of incorporation is of no earthly use. It is like the fifth wheel to a carriage, or a second tail to a dog. The only argument in its favor, urged by its advocates, has been that it would enable the Association to hold property, sue and be sued; neither of which it needs or wants to do. It is therefore, literally, a work of supererogation.

5. Because it has caused friction and unpleasant feelings among those who, for a score of years, had worked in harmony. Coming at a time when tariff and other political irritations were unusually rife between the two countries, it was most unfortunate. Little people are perhaps more sensitive than they need be, but there is a certain degree of self-respect which no Nation can afford to surrender. Even a minority has its rights. It may be that we have "kicked" too vigorously in regard to this matter, and that we have not shown sufficient courtesy