

# NORTH-AMERICAN Bee-Keepers' Association

## TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING,

Held in the Normal School, Auditorium, Toronto, Wednesday  
Thursday and Friday, September 4th, 5th and 6th, 1895.

(Continued)

### BEE KEEPERS' UNION.

Everywhere unthinking men abound. They "plod along" in the "old ruts," and often laugh at those who are progressive—those who think and plan, in order to evolve methods for advancement. The unprogressive never push to the front—never startle their companions by advancing a single idea. Conservatism is their boast. They desire no disturbance, while they practice the methods of their ancestors.

The present age needs men of energy and power—men who think, plan, devise and execute their designs. Men whose "deeds of daring" make them an enduring name, and a place, among mankind. Did any industry ever build itself up? Was a dollar ever seen rolling uphill, unless some one was pushing it from behind? Never!

Bee-keeping is no exception. It is just like other industries. It must be studied, helped, guided—yes pushed uphill, just like the dollar. To find a lucrative business the apiary must employ the most practical methods of production; the product must compare favorably, and compete in quality and price, with others; the apiary must find the market and then comply with its demands. In other words, must push the pursuit all along to complete success.

Not only is this absolutely true in the individual, but also in the organization. For the past twenty years have I labored with others to make the North American Bee-Keepers' Association a representative body, but so far our labors have not been crowned with success. The unproductive "drones" in the National "hive" seem to have been so numerous, that it contains but little "surplus" honey. Each year's receipts having disappeared with wonderful regularity. While the few progressive "workers" have labored zealously all the time, the great majority has been unproductive.

Consumption has fully equalled production and the result is a "weak colony," which some advise to have united to another colony to save it. This is the case in a nutshell.

Having carefully read all that has lately been written on the proposition to unite it with the National Bee-Keepers' Union, and being equally interested in both (a life-member and ex-president of the former, and general manager of the latter), it will be conceded that I candidly discuss the question of the proposed amalgamation.

First, let me say that, unintentionally, no doubt I have been misrepresented. By repeated and urgent requests, I wrote a short article for publication on the proposed consolidation, pointing out the only feasible method of accomplishing it, incidentally remarking that I did not believe that the members of the Bee Keepers' Union would consent to have the funds, raised for defence, used for delegates to go to "see the boys and have a good time," as had been hinted by some.

I purposely refrained from expressing an opinion on the question of merging the two societies into one, because of my connection with the latter, which might be construed by some to be selfish, if I oppose it, and, perhaps puerile, if I approved it. Just imagine my surprise when I read the heading which the editor placed over my communication. It read thus: "A Union of the North American and the Bee-Keepers' Union Will be Opposed by the Manager of the Latter." And yet not a word can be found in the communication upon which to base such a deduction! In fact, I thought favorably at first of the proposition but was surprised at the lack of suggestions as to how it was to be accomplished, and therefore volunteered to outline the necessary *modus operandi* so far as the Bee-Keepers' Union was concerned. That must have