

blood and clear conscience." In order to keep constantly on hand (so he says) a plentiful supply of the former he abstains from tea, tobacco, whiskey and stimulants generally, while he takes but two good square meals every 24 hours without any lunches. This hygienic regimen he has adhered to for a quarter of a century, declaring that whatever he does or leaves undone in life he will try and avoid making the common blunder of digging his grave with his teeth." Mr. P. is probably, in his daily life and habits, as good an example of temperate and hygienic living as could be found in some days travel. Through holding and expressing unpopular opinions on some subjects he is held in high esteem by those who know him best and his word is his bond. I have now probably said enough for your purpose. Upon the accuracy of the statements made you can, however, rely.

COMBINATIONS FOR HONEY PRODUCERS.

WHAT FRIEND HICKS THINKS OF THEM.

WHEN viewed from a practical stand point it seems to me as a step in the wrong direction, especially so if we are allowed to judge of other combinations, such as Boards of Trade, Railroad Corporations, and many others I could mention of which I do not wish to leave unnoticed, the Coal Oil and Express Combinations, all of which have and are still continually sacrificing every principle of justice in order to accomplish their cunningly devised plans of injustice towards the many. These things will, at some future time, be more fully noticed and properly managed by the masses. Such corporations seem to flourish like the green bay tree for a while, but *God is just*, and will, doubtless, put it into the hands of His people to rectify these inhuman wrongs now exercised by almost every organization in existence. It has for many years been the custom of many honey producers to consign their crop to some commission dealer in some city, for instance one C. O. Perrin, of Chicago, who used to deal heavily in pure honey as furnished by the bee-keepers, as well as much of his own bogus production added in order to make more extended sales. More than once have we seen his bogus productions in glass jars and tumblers for sale in the grocery stores of our own Hoosier State. Mr. C. O. Perrin was not alone in such dealings as well as quoting honey at certain

figures far below the actual sales made. We also find for several years past the quotations of honey (not glucose) have been very low by the various commission men in many cities, and especially in Chicago and Cincinnati, at the same time I retailed all the honey I could produce at 20 cts. for extracted and 25 cts. per lb. for comb honey. And at this writing I have disposed of my 1886 crop at 20 cts. per pound, something over 4,000 lbs., all of which has been sold direct to the consumer, and not a pound went into a grocery store or to a commission merchant. I have long since found that it takes industry to produce, as well as to sell honey at a paying price. The former commodity (industry) does not in a very great degree abound among the commission men of the present day, except at the expense of the producer, hence every producer can well afford to be his own salesman, provided always he desires good and reasonable returns for his honey. It seems to me after many years of close observation and contrasting the past with the present state of things, that it would be vain illeness for the bee-keepers of America to try such a scheme as heads this article. It is a true saying and worthy of full consideration, that even in all such combinations, the big fish eat up the little ones, and the stock goes up or down as the case may be. But one thing is sure, that the little fish soon find themselves far in the rear of the sharks, which has been, and is yet, the order of the day among all combinations, and the many suffer at the hands of such organizations, hence I for one, am opposed to all movements, especially so, when they have such a strong tendency of becoming a monopoly, which, if once organized, would have no other object in view than to control the honey trade, as against the consumer and directly in the interests of such organized monopoly. In fact, so far as our commission honey dealers at this date are concerned, it almost amounts to the same thing; a few of whom have control of the trade now in their locality, and we often hear of sad complaints from parties who make consignments, failing to receive enough in return to pay ordinary expenses of production and cost of shipment.

J. M. HICKS.
Battleground, Tippecanoe County, Ind.

Well done, friend Hicks, you need no combination to boom prices for you. We wonder how many more of our bee friends will see the necessity of establishing a home market, by allowing no person, whether rich or poor, to go without a supply of honey, at all times of the year, if effort, honest dealing and good