

questions affecting our calling. We are not supposed to see eye to eye, but we meet together to discuss methods, to pass resolutions, to convince and be convinced by every honorable means in this discussion. The greatest freedom of thought should be permitted without in tone, manner or words, allowing personal feelings to creep in to mar the pleasure and utility of our discussion, ever remembering that we should never act contrary to our highest conceptions of duty. To side with error and wrong against our best feelings or keep silence in the presence of injustice which should excite indignant denunciation is as wrong as it is to throw out insinuations as to motives and accusations for which there is no ground but the imagination.

We have before us an excellent programme and I have no doubt with the complexion of this convention that it can will be one long remembered for its generally pleasant and harmonious feeling, vigor of discussion and the valuable points which it has brought out, a portion of which in the present stage of Journalism will reach the home of every thinking and reading bee-keeper on this continent and in other lands.

Moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Dr. A. B. Mason, that the president's address be accepted.—Carried.

#### RAISING COMB HONEY.

**The Surest Best Way of Raising a Crop of Comb Honey.**—B Taylor, Forestville, Minn., U. S.

There has been poor honey crops here, (Southern Minnesota) for five seasons in succession. Six years ago we had the greatest crops on record, and for 25 years previously a good crop was about as certain as the seasons, providing proper industry and skill was used. Then there came a change. Minnesota had in all the years previous to 1899 been regularly blessed with abundance of rain-fall in the growing season, and generally with much snow in the winter. Farm crops of all kinds flourished, wild flower plants struggled for room in every waste corner, and the flowers wet, reeking with nectar. But for the last five seasons there has been a great lack of rain-fall in the summer and fall months. Vegetable growth was checked and farm crops became less certain, the carpet of green that clothed our landscape in the fall months was turned to brown often in the early months of summer. The white clover that lined our roadsides and pastures with silvery whiteness began to disappear more and more with each returning season. Trees began to be scrimped in growth of leaf and blossom until in the fall

of 1891 stately oaks and other trees withered and died for lack of moisture. The honey crops began to wane and the bees wintered with less certainty each year. Skilful apiarists that were able to still secure some surplus began to be the ones who had the worst luck in wintering the colonies, and the less skilful who got no honey, the most successful. But now, old time conditions seem to be returning, good rains continue to come in regular order, and the brown earth is being again clothed with a carpet of green and gold, and the colonies of bees are increasing in weight in a way that promises better times for 1896 for the apiarist, for the bees will now raise brood until late in the fall and the hive will be stocked with young bees at cellaring time that will not die of old age before young bees can be raised next spring to take their place, and the hives will also be well stocked with natural stores, so we need not be doctoring the colonies with artificial feed.

I begin to fear that whenever we have to begin doctoring our colonies for any reason, trouble is not far away, the outlook is then hopeful and we have resolved to raise a big crop of comb honey in 1896 if life and health permits and the present hopeful conditions continue. If we succeed we will have to have our colonies strong in bees. When white and alsike clover blooms again, about June 1st, next year, and we shall begin at once to utilize present opportunity, be sure to have the bees. As we have already indicated, we are quite certain we can winter with certainty in almost any kind of hive, provided it is filled with a large colony of young bees and plenty of natural sealed stores at the commencement of winter and we give intelligent care as to winter quarters and this we will give by putting our colonies into a dry, dark, well-ventilated cellar and keeping them at a temperature as near 40 degrees as possible. Each colony will be covered with a soft felt sheeting paper or quilt of two or more thicknesses below or cotton sheeting and these fastened down tightly to the top of the hive (the corner being removed) so as to retain the natural heat of the bees, for I am now convinced by repeating experiments that the colonies should be covered warmly even in the cellar. We will let the bottom boards of the hives remain but will have a wide entrance (the entire width of hive, both in front and rear left open. The bees will be put into winter quarters when real winter has apparently come. We have some second swarms that come late, these will at once be supplied with honey combs and natural stores which we have in stock