

boxes of honey which our grandfathers took to market, or the tubs of broken honey so familiar in those days, the grocer can now supply his customer with a neat package of almost any desirable quantity without so much as soiling his fingers.

The queen cage, also, and the ability to send queens by express and mail to the remote parts of the earth, gave an impetus to bee culture never before felt. And be it said to the credit of American inventors and breeders, they are never content with mediocrity. Beekeepers' meetings and our excellent bee literature have awakened interest and enquiry, the mechanical genius of the age has been stimulated to meet the demand for improved appliances, and queen breeders have spent much time and money trying to improve the honey producing qualities of the bee first introduced into this country. In the desire for improvement (or novelty), in the latter direction, there have been undesirable importations in my judgment, but, on the whole, progress in the right direction. Indeed it may be said too, that not all our inventions are improvements, but they mark the milestones on the road to success. Beekeeping, like our civilization, is yet in a state of transition, but as Paul advises, we are going on toward perfection, although we may never reach it.

The beekeepers of the country belong to that great army of producers who are feeding the world, and at the same time are trying to solve the problem how to feed themselves—in other words, how to make an honest and decent living from the natural resources which the Creator has placed within their reach, resources, too, the use of which do not impoverish but enrich the earth. Were the honey bee blotted out of the book of nature, few people realize the loss to agriculture, horticulture and floriculture that would result. These kindred industries are slow to acknowledge the benefits derived from the bees as an important aid to complete fertilization in many plants, as positively necessary to others, and beneficial to all flowers visited by them. Cross fertilization is nature's method of progress. The bees are nature's assistants in this work. No other known agency can be substituted. Instead of hostility, the beekeeper should receive the thanks of the agriculturist and fruit-grower, and the fostering protection of the Government. Its entomological experts should not only spread abroad knowledge regarding insects injurious to vegetation, but also correct information as to those which are helpful to the farmer.

If bee-keeping be a lawful and necessary pursuit, the Government should throw

around it the same protective legislation that is granted the dairyman and pork raiser. We can no more compete against glucose honey with an honest product than the farmer can against oleomargarine butter or cotton-seed lard.

I wish right here to express my disapproval of a method of adding to the income of the honey producer (which has been recently much discussed) by feeding a substance not distilled in nature's laboratory. If it is not longer to produce honey at a profit in large apiaries from the natural secretions of plants and flowers, it is an argument to my mind that the business is being overdone in some localities, and that it is time to return to the practice, once more general than now, of smaller apiaries and a wider distribution of bees throughout the country.

In my judgment, we cannot long prosper if we adopt methods which will put us on the defensive in every honey market in the country. Adulteration is the crying sin of the age. The people are becoming aroused on the subject. We ourselves are trying to put a stop to it. It will not be sufficient to say that this improved article is to be sold for just what it is. If it is possible to produce it at a profit, it will not be long before every consumer will have heard of the trick and conclude to make his own honey. Any attempt to forestall the seasons will prove a delusion and a snare.

The Columbian Exposition in 1893 offers to the beekeepers of this country an opportunity for instruction which will probably not come to many of us again. For the purpose of contrasting the new with the old, and comparing products and appliances with the leading honey producers of this and other lands, it will be an object lesson too valuable to lose. Pride, if nothing else, should stimulate every lover of his country to add to the collection. Although the management failed to suitably recognize our industry, we cannot afford to let this occasion pass to impress upon the people the magnitude of our industry. Nothing so impresses one as quantity. A glass of water is insignificant, but the Atlantic ocean needs no addition to its majesty. So while a few pounds of honey, although perfect, will attract little attention, tons of a less perfect article will make its impression. Perhaps some of the states have not offered that encouragement to exhibitors that you feel is due. It may be by properly presenting the matter to the State Commissioners; arrangements can yet be made, and the expenses of a State exhibit at least, be secured.

At some time during the Exposition I hope to see a beekeepers' Congress arranged