

number of small pieces. I gave a short talk on the industry, etc., of the patient little workers, and drew appropriate lessons therefrom. Then I created a furore amongst the juveniles by presenting as many as possible with a portion of section honey. This action of mine almost destroyed the harmony of the gathering, for the children got the honey on their clothing, clamored for more, and the unfortunate ones who did not secure any made loud appeals to the benevolence of those who did. A small boy whom I had previously employed rose in his seat and enquired if I had any honey at home for sale. "Yes," I replied, "any amount." "At what price?" he wanted to know, and I told him. Well, sir, next day I sold over two hundred pounds and had a steady demand until my crop was exhausted. I consider that the cost of the honey given away and the quarter I paid the boy to put the questions was more than recouped."

A STATE SOCIETY FOR MAINE,

AND ITS MOST COMPREHENSIVE PLAT-FORM.

MAINE Apicultural Society meets in Lewiston to-day to discuss the advisability of consolidating in one all the various bee-keepers' societies throughout the State, in the same manner as our Ontario association.

The Lewiston *Journal* puts forward the following advantages for the amalgamation, and the objects sought to be attained certainly cover a wide field:—

The one general society, by its great membership, would, without increasing individual expense, secure quite a fund with which to prosecute much needed investigation of subjects of interest to the profession.

The State society could elect an agent to inspect and thoroughly test the various inventions and improvements which are placed before the public with fine names and great praise, and who should, when such novelties are found to be of practical value, give them the recommendation of the State society. Then, every bee-keeper in Maine will know the worth of the article. This is something which cannot be done by individuals.

The same idea could be carried out with regard to the different races of bees, and the

methods of management. Results of investigations could be forwarded to the county departments for the benefit of members, and in this way a more intelligent and systematic method of apiculture would be secured which could not fail to secure good results. A little time expended in arranging details will secure a smooth-working society. "In union is strength."

DO BEES EAT PEACHES.

IN the last issue of *Gleanings* friend Root, writes pretty conclusively on this matter. We have no peaches in our own immediate neighborhood, but many of our readers south have yards, or are in close proximity to yards, so that their bees might be a trouble, and perhaps not having watched developments themselves, if approached by a peach grower with complaints against their bees, would not be in a position to answer him as well as they will be after reading the article which we reproduce in full:

The matter has come up a great many times in regard to bees and peaches, and perhaps more this present season than heretofore. A few days ago a neighbor told me that our bees had taken complete possession of his peach orchard. They were "cleaning the fruit right off the trees and would not let anyone go near the trees." I told him they were eating the decayed peaches and no others. He would not believe me until I took him down to our fruit house and showed him several baskets of sweet clingstone peaches. These sweet clingstones are the first that ripen, and this year they began rotting, a great part of them, before they got mellow enough to eat. I have taken considerable time and pains to look into the whole matter, and I understand it. I bought of a neighbor about two bushels of these peaches, and I immediately sorted out all the decayed and mellow ones. Before I got through the bees were busy on the decayed ones; then they commenced on the mellow ones; and where the skin was bruised they rapidly enlarged the opening, and soon finished the peach. For two or three hours not a bee was to be found on those that had been sorted out as perfect. By noon, however, knots of bees were gathered in different parts of almost every basket. I sorted them again and found little white spots, indicating that rot had commenced since I went over them in the morning, and whenever the bees found these indications that decay had commenced on a small spot, they pushed their tongues into it, and rapidly made the opening larger.