

it. When it comes to one or two men attempting to do that work, it is a heavy task. If we would unite and bring before the public through the papers the value of honey, we could do a great deal, and we will find that the papers are only too willing to assist us. Our own town of Brantford is not in a district where buckwheat honey is produced, still we find that it is a matter of education. Last year in one store we sold nearly 2,000 pounds of buckwheat honey, and that was the first time that buckwheat honey was attempted to be sold.

The matter of Mr. Benton not furnishing a full copy of the report of the last convention, was brought up and discussed fully by the association.

Moved by Dr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Calvert, that the matter of last year's report be referred to a committee to investigate and report to this convention. — Carried.

Adjourned.

Thursday, Sept. 5th, 1895.

Convention opened at 9 a. m. President in the chair.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In the few remarks to which I shall confine myself I would say, that looking upon bee-keeping as an occupation we are making progress in many desirable directions. There is still with some, unfortunately, a slight tendency to belittle bee-keeping by giving the impression that any one can keep bees and succeed with but little capital, no experience, no labor; and others we find who, if they do not express it, have a lingering thought in their mind that the advantages of the occupation and the experience of able men should not be presented. All this we are leaving behind us, and we are emerging, in fact standing upon a broad and liberal platform, our industry being recognized as a wealth producing power of the country; and we can be justly be proud of our occupation. Much has been said, and much has been conceded along the line of the interesting study of the marvelous honey bee. The study of its life's history has thrown open to scientific men some of the most beautiful laws in nature, in that way increasing our reverence for the Creator of all things who has set these laws in force. But we cannot emphasize too much the facts that bee-keeping may offer an opening to many in rural districts, who otherwise have to resort to the city unable to find profitable openings in the country with the capital in hand; that bee-keeping displaces no other crop on the farm; that in taking the honey crop it takes nothing from the fertility of the soil; that bees are great pub-

lic benefactors in the polonization of flowers, and that day by day as investigations are being made, importance is being added to the honey bee in its relations to plant life; that honey is one of the best and most economical of foods. While we state these and many other facts we might in justice point out, that it takes care, experience, and time to succeed in bee keeping, that it is a legitimate business, and that the cost of the production taken from the price at which the honey is sold, leaves but a moderate margin of profit to the bee-keeper.

During the past season the most of us have passed through trying times, very few indeed have made a living. The United States, as well as portions of Europe, have had a very light crop, probably after leaving enough for winter, no crop at all. In Canada, some districts such as British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, in Ontario along the Ottawa River, and North-western Ontario have done well, but unfortunately in these portions, bee-keeping is engaged in by but few. As to our own organization, the "North American Bee-keepers Association," it has been claimed by some that it is not sufficiently representative. This is perhaps true, and yet it is the most representative body of bee-keepers on the continent, meeting here and there, north, south, east and west. It undoubtedly has had a comparatively small number of members, yet many have faithfully and steadily supported it throughout, and when we come to a term of years it embraces a very large membership. During the past year the Association has conferred a lasting benefit upon bee-keepers and railroads. The committee appointed by this organization succeeded in getting important concessions from the Western Classification Committee, and other districts will no doubt follow in their own interests. As an Association and as individual bee-keepers we might do more to draw attention to the value of honey as a food, and in other ways increase the consumption of one of the healthiest and most economic of foods. Fear of adulteration has much to do with the limit of consumption. As bee-keepers, we must use every means in our power, or that can be put within our power to convince our customers that honey is a sweet with essential oils added, distilled by nature's laboratory, and gathered from the fragrant blossoms in the fields and forest. If we desire to gain ground or even hold our own in the markets of the world, in this matter bee-keepers must stand shoulder to shoulder.

In closing, I need not point out that this is an age of Conventions, where man to man we can discuss the great and minor