

BEE-KEEPERS CONVENTION.

SALT LAKE, April 8th, 1882.

Editors Herald:

The Territorial Bee-Keeper's Association assembled at the Council House, April 6th 1882, President A. M. Musser, presiding.

Salt Lake County was represented by Vice-President Samuel McKay, E. Stevenson and others; Davis County, by M. T. Porter; Weber County by County Bee Inspector R. M. Birch; Box Elder County, by Chas. Connely, county inspector; Tooele County, by Secretary T. W. Lee and John McClame; Sanpete County by C. A. Madsen.

Letters were read from various parts of the territory. Mrs. Annie C. Woodberry of St. George, Washington County, writes that in the spring of 1881 she had forty-five hives of bees, increased sixteen; lost five during the summer, leaving fifty-six in good condition; had taken 2,200 pounds of honey, mostly from top boxes. No disease of any kind in the place.

Mr. John Price of Washington, Washington County, writes March 26th 1882: "Six years ago I began bee-keeping with one swarm, and now I have eighty-eight hives of bees in good condition; have lost six swarms by bee moth; no foul brood in this place. There are 175 hives of bees in Washington; no trouble wintering on summer stands, under shed roofs to shield them from our hot Dixie sun. We average seventy-five pounds of honey to each hive, but I have taken 162½ pounds from one hive."

Mr. Silas Richards, of Union, Salt Lake County, writes, March 27th, that they have eleven bee-keepers there, had sixty-seven hives, but have lost twelve, leaving a balance of fifty-five this spring; winter on summer stands; generally cultivate natural swarming; do not use extractor; neither disturb the lower hive or brood nest; use scarcely any bee rails or gloves.

Mr. Joseph E. Johnson writes from St. George, March 31st, 1882, that there are about 500 colonies in Washington, Kane and Iron counties, yielding from twenty to one hundred pounds to the colony, honey varying from fifteen to twenty-five cents per pound. The supply is equal to the demand. Not a single case of foul brood has been known in these parts. The best honey season there is during May and June. If there are late rains they have some fall bloom, and as the winters are warm bees fly nearly every day. Consequently, there is liability to about twenty-five per cent. loss by starvation unless the bees are fed when supplies are short.

President James Cullimore writes from Pleasant Grove, Utah County, that press of business prevents him from giving a full report of the association. He has 115 colonies, and has lost only one up to this time wintered on summer stands. After so long a winter honey is scarce in the hives. Some in the neighborhood have lost but few, and others, none of their bees.

Mr. T. W. Lee says in Tooele City there are sixteen bee keepers, and 106 colonies of bees. They were put into winter quarters on summer stands. Losses, twenty-four; leaving eighty-two stands in tolerable good condition. No foul brood. Bees are mostly hybrids.

Mr. Charles Connely says, as bee inspector, he had destroyed twenty-one colonies of foul brood in Box Elder County in one season, and fourteen colonies the following season; and on his return home expects to destroy others infected, and try to rid the county of this dreadful pest. He started with two stands and now has forty-six. There are about 350 colonies in the county. He wintered his bees on summer stands about four inches apart, fills in with hay, chaff or straw. Gives upper ventilation, puts a cloth over the lower hive, keeps them dry and warm, and has no trouble in wintering. Honey sells there, at 20c. per pound.

Bee Inspector R. M. Birch, of Weber County, said the county only paid him for destroying foul brood when he was called upon, and as his calls were rather scarce, he had not done much at it. He winters bees on summer stands in shed; puts cloth on lower hive and fills the upper box with hay. They winter well.

Bishop C. A. Madsen, of Gunnison, Sanpete County, said their bees, although but few in number, had wintered well, and as he learned more about bees his interest increased. Intended to progress in bee culture in Gunnison.

Mr. N. T. Porter, of Davis County, said they had been sorely troubled with foul brood, and consequently heavy loss. He had lost his bees but was starting again with better

success. He had placed chop feed near his hives and the bees worked wonderfully in it.

President Musser explained the law on foul brood.

Vice-President Samuel Mackey took pride in bee keeping, and always had good success in wintering his bees, until this very hard winter he had lost fifty-six out of eighty-seven colonies. He thought the severe frosts had cracked some of the honey combs and the damp of the hives had soured the honey, sickening and killing many of the bees; also, many of the bees had been lost in flight on warm days, thus weakening the colonies. Foul brood was imported into our country, and has spread fearfully in many places. It must be destroyed if we would be successful with bees. Most of his losses occurred in February. Thinks the losses in Salt Lake County will be over 50 per cent.

Mr. William Egan said his experience had been quite different this winter from that of any previous year. He had only five stands of bees left alive out of forty. For want of time he had neglected to pack his chaff hives last fall, hence his loss. Previously, when he had protected his bees, he lost scarcely any.

Edward Stevenson said we must provide better winter quarters for our bees in order to insure success, especially as our winters are so changeable in this high altitude. He had placed some of his bees under shed roofs packed with chaff, with a movable front ten feet long and two feet wide, leaving four inches back and front, boxing the entrance, leaving a passage for the bees through the movable front. The hot rays of the sun will not so easily cause the bees to fly, until the air is sufficiently warm for them to return home again. This makes a cheap chaff hive, as six hives can be placed together in one packing, and be kept warm until late spring, thus inducing early brooding. They must have upper ventilation and chaff cushions in upper box. In Dixie scarce any bees die because of the cold.

The meeting was well attended, and an increased desire to make Utah a success in bee culture was manifested, that the land may flow with honey as it now does with milk.

The meeting adjourned until October 6th, 7 p. m. at the same place. Benediction by C. A. Madsen.

EDWARD STEVENSON,
Secretary.