

enjoys working with tools and machinery. For a few years he rode a "bike," a second-hand "ice-wagon," by the way, and a little over a year ago getting tired repairing his old "bike" for road work, he fixed it up in a different way and set it up in the shop where all the tinkering around the farm is done, and invested a little money in a small circular saw and pulled an old mower, to pieces and secured a shaft and bearings from it and connected the "bike" and saw together and proceeded to go wheeling in winter time, but he found it too much like pedalling uphill to get down to any real hive-making with his "bike," so this winter he took the saw and fixed it into another frame and hitched the horse-power to it. A horse-power, by the way, big enough and strong enough to run a threshing machine, and investing \$12.55 in lumber he proceeded in earnest to make bee-hives. After a little trouble at first in getting his saw to work right, due again to his inexperience he finally got it to running in good shape and got "onto the hang of the thing" himself, and—say, but didn't he make the sawdust fly! He enjoyed seeing that saw go ripping through those boards almost as much as he used to enjoy watching his bees busily at work, on some balmy day in June, or taking a look through his hives, and—and—perchance having a bee sit down on him rather solid sometimes.

However, after considerable manipulation of that saw and that lumber, he finally got that lumber cut into shape to make twenty hive bodies, with thirty-three supers, (he hadn't enough lumber to make two supers each) with frames, hand-holes, grooves, and all the other fringes, almost as good as he could have secured them from the bee-factory. Of course, they were not quite as smoothly and elegantly finish-

ed as a factory-made hive, and yet when he gets some of them nailed together he finds they will compare very favorably with the factory-made hives—even with respect to their finished appearance, and they haven't cost him one-half what the same number of factory-made hives would have cost.

So the result of "Amateur's experience in hive-making" is that he is more firmly convinced than ever that it pays the bee-keeper to make his own hives, more particularly if he is not particularly busy in winter, and can thereby very largely leave out of the calculation the price of labor. In passing, "Amateur" would like to express the opinion that if, as he says, those hives Allan Latham describes in a recent number of the "American Bee Journal" cost him fifty cents each, he pays pretty dearly for such cheap makeshift pretences of hives as he describes. "Amateur" considers it much better economy to go to the saw-mill and get some good lumber and make some good hives, than to spend as much money on a make-shift box that cannot, as he thinks, be anything but a source of trouble and annoyance.

So lest "ye editor" may not find space for these rambling thoughts, and lest if he should "ye readers" may not have patience to wander through them all "Amateur" will close this already too lengthy epistle, and subscribe himself,

J. D. TAYLOR,

Galt, Ont.

#### SIMCOE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The Simcoe County Bee-keepers' Association will meet in Barrie on Easter Saturday, April 14th, 1906. A good program will be furnished, and all members and others interested are invited to attend.

James Martin,  
President.

Denis Nolan,  
Secretary

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