

Letters to the Editor

THAT NORFOLK RESOLUTION

Mr. Beaupre Explains

Your letter of the 9th inst. received, and in reply would say that I deem it very important that this thing should be sifted out. We here in our Association take it for a fact that there is practically no foul brood east of Northumberland County, or else it would not have been published in your journal. Now we bear no ill-will against those down east, but otherwise wish them all success, and that if they are unfortunate enough to have foul brood in their midst, we extend to them our sympathy, for we ourselves know all too well what it is. In my immediate vicinity I can truthfully say that there is not half as many bee-keepers as there were five years ago, the bees being wiped out by no other cause than that of foul brood, known by the inspector to exist, but almost entirely neglected. If any one wishes to know the quality of foul brood inspection as done in our part previous to last season, I can give a very good account of it, and I have good men to back me up in what I say.

If we had not been fortunate enough to receive such an efficient inspector as Mr. Armstrong we would very soon have been wiped out entirely. I know personally that this foul brood is treated by some as a very light affair, but I know from last season's work of inspection in our locality that it will take an inspector another season to get over our county. Then to get things in shape so that we can rest in any security it would have to be followed up the next season, the ground all being gone over again. Now how is the inspector in this district able to cope with the situation when he has all the counties as far as Windsor, as well as Oxford and Brant, to inspect? What is to become of these other counties while Norfolk is being cleaned. Are the bees to be wiped out? I tell you that

if all counties are affected as Norfolk has been and is, that an inspector to each county is none too much to handle it in time and give justice to all. There is no use of an inspector jumping about from one place to another if he ever expects to clean it up, but he must go over all the ground thoroughly, finding every colony as he goes along. Unless it is done this way, we shall always expect to have it lurking about. Now, do we expect the Government to do all this for us, or are we as bee-keepers willing to rise in all our might and cease to be at loggerheads one with another and unitedly work together? It is to the best interest of all concerned to have it cleaned up as soon as possible, and in this way it would not cost one-half as much in the end as if it was to hang fire for several years. I must say right here that Mr. Holtermann was not at the bottom of this. The President of our Association was the one to bring this up, and it was the unanimous vote of the meeting that the said resolution be adopted. I tell you right here that we are beginning to awaken in old Norfolk and get this thing cleaned up. If we don't look after it ourselves, why no one else will be around looking for the job very soon. You may use this letter, or any part of it, for publication if you wish; in fact, I would rather have it all come out. I doubt not but what Mr. Holtermann is blamed for this almost entirely, but he is not responsible for it. Hoping this will prove satisfactory. If there is any other point you should wish to know more about, kindly let me know, and I will try and explain it as fully as I can.

LEE BEAUPRE.

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[Mr. Beaupre has written very strongly. We are very much surprised to hear that foul brood is so bad in Norfolk. We have not Mr. Armstrong's report before us, but we do not remember that he pictured matters so badly as the above.