

who starts in any business with no capital and with a family to support.

My first bees were bought on credit, but were not taken on those terms until earnestly requested to do so by the friend who had them for sale. My note for twelve months was given, and the bees were moved in November. They were in single-walled hives when bought, and after that date I transferred them into packed hives that I had made, lifting the combs out two by two from one hive to another. Any one familiar with our climate knows that transferring bees in November here in Ontario is not good policy, but in this case luck favored me, and they wintered all right. The crop was good that season, and I paid for the bees, and had a bit of cash left. This was, of course, "experience;" but I am at a loss to say whether I would consider it a "mistake" for a person situated as I was to go into debt for bees or not. Certainly it is at best a risky way of starting. Just here I might state the promise of the man that, in case I could not meet the note when due, he would not sue me anyway. While he was perfectly honest in this assurance, I suspect it would have done him little good to take such a step, as it "is hard to get blood out of a turnip," as the old saying goes, and so just as useless to try to get money from a man who has none.

In looking back over the past few years I note many things that have been done that seem now to have been "mistakes," and yet under the circumstances I am led to wonder whether some of these "mistakes" could have been avoided. With only a few bees, it was impossible to think of making a living for the family, and of course the thing that came to my mind as a solution of the problem was in line with the advice of our departed friend Hutchinson, "Keep more bees."

With practically no capital, it was impossible for me to discriminate in the matter of hives, etc.; and, as a result,

bees were bought anywhere I could get them, and in all kind of hives. This proceeding naturally gave and is giving me lots of "experience," and to the minds of most men it will no doubt be classed as a "mistake"; yet if placed in the same position again, I no doubt would do just as I did before, with some modifications learned by hard experience of the past. It certainly is, under ordinary conditions, a great mistake to have a number of different sizes of hives; but under exceptional conditions there is license for almost anything, and the position I was in called for radical methods if I was going to keep on top.

During the time I was buying up bees here and there, many more colonies were kept by farmers than is now the case, and I soon learned that I could profitably buy first swarms, when they were offered to me, at about \$1.00 each. Many a night have I driven six or eight miles after a hard day's work on the farm, in order to bring home two or three colonies from some man to whom I had taken empty hives earlier in the season. I remember in particular a farmer friend who complained bitterly because his bees threw out so many after-swarms; and to help him out I told him to hive the first swarms on the old stands, *a la* Heddon, and after six days move the old stock to a distant corner of the apiary. After a week or two he sent word to me to come and get the swarms he had hived for me; and imagine my surprise to find the said swarms with all foundation drawn out, and the bees hanging outside the entrance in great clusters! He remarked, "I fixed the beggars this time so that they would not swarm the second time." He had followed my advice in the matter all right, but little did I suspect that I was going to profit by it at the time. As the man in question seldom tried to get any honey from his bees, my conscience did not bother me any, and I took the bees home, getting about 100 pounds of clover honey from each. This little epi-

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