

probably soon become a competitor with me in the market. I am aware that the principle and policy of some specialists is to discountenance and discourage any general extension of bee-culture amongst the people. In this respect our Ontario Society is certainly quite a contrast to the British Bee-keepers' Association, and as I think to our discredit. They foster extension; we discourage it, though our area for extension is vastly the wider one. There cannot be much said in favor of keeping bees within the precincts of cities, town, and villages, but let our wide rural territories be stocked and studded with the busy bees. I have always contended—and now contend—that apiculture is a legitimate part of agriculture and horticulture, and they ought, therefore, to a large extent, to go together. My own bee-keeping, extending over a quarter of a century, has always been carried on in connection with farming. I do not, however, say that every farmer ought to keep bees; and this brings us to a consideration of the main question, viz.: Who can make bee-keeping pay in dollars and cents? And can it be made to pay better in conjunction with some other business than alone? As is the case with the most kinds of business, to make bee-keeping pay, either in conjunction or as a specialty, the manager must have special gifts and qualifications. And this ground has been gone over so often it is hardly necessary to stop here to enlarge upon the requisite gifts. Suffice it to say the successful bee-keeper must have at least natural devotion to the work, and good, common sense, with close observing power, considerable mechanical skill, ability to attend to details, and a good degree of business tact to enable him to dispose of his products. Dabblers in the business may do with less qualifications than these, but the really successful apiarist must have them. Through ignorance of this fact and absence of self-knowledge many mistakes are made and much money squandered. One sees his neighbor succeed in bee-keeping and imagines that he can go and do likewise, and goes and loses his money. That he has a natural right to do this no fair man will dispute. True, we might advise a friend in a friendly way not to throw away his money, only perhaps in return to have our motives questioned. Hence I can really see no practical way of having this foolish business stopped, unless, indeed, we could induce those sanguine people to submit their craniums to the phrenologists tape before embarking in bees.

Nevertheless, there are many—very many—people in the rural districts of Canada amongst the farmers and others who could keep a few colonies of bees to their own advantage and that

of their neighbors. They would thus be benefiting themselves by producing honey for their own use, and benefit their neighbors by securing fertilisation to their fields of clover and orchards of fruit.

Many objections are, I am well aware, urged against such a recommendation, but they are all, I think, selfish with one or two exceptions. The one really valid objection which I fully recognise and freely admit is the danger of extending and perpetuating that dreadful disease "foul-brood" by largely increasing the numbers of small bee-keepers. This prospective evil can, however, be met in two ways—first by requisite legislation to enable the bee-keepers proper to promptly stamp out the disease, and second, to discourage the small bee-keeper from the use of the extractor and other of the improved modern appliances. I talk like this to a proposed beginner who just wants to raise "some honey for his own use;" "Get one colony to begin with and from three or four, on an average, you can get cap honey off the top, with little trouble, enough, and more than enough, for your own family. As for the extractor leave it alone. You cannot handle it properly. Should you want extracted honey for your own use you can very readily exchange your comb honey for it. All this requires very little knowledge of bee-keeping, and as for wintering come to me in the fall and I will tell you how to winter your bees." He takes the advice and raises his honey, and I take satisfaction in the thought that "there is room in this world for us all." "Children and fools must not handle edge tools." The great evil consists in these small bee-keepers dabbling in the specialists line and handling professional tools. The extractor especially is a dangerous weapon in the neophytes hands in tending to the production of foul-brood. He has the merest smattering of apicultural lore, and he proceeds to put the greatest achievement of modern bee-culture into use, viz.: the extractor. And he proceeds also at the same time to blunder. He slings out the larvæ, damages the brood, chills it, shaves the heads of all the drones he sees, in all stages under the cap, ignorant or heedless as to whether the colony is in a position to attend to the "remains" or not, and so on through. One of the results is probably the development of foul-brood among his bees, which will in turn infect those of his neighbors. There is, I know, a difference of opinion on this point, but my conviction is that "foul-brood" may be generated in any beeyard where the conditions are favorable, and among these conditions are rotting drones and decaying brood within the hive. These small bee-keepers should not therefore be encouraged