

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The Foul Brood Bill.

IN the last issue of the JOURNAL a correspondent "who does not want his name given," thinks one or two of the provisions of the Bill wrong while approving all the rest.

Now, as that Bill, like all other mundane things, was not quite infallible in its origin, I trust nobody will be backward in coming forward to criticise it over his or her own name. This correspondent thinks it would be better to have an Inspector for each district than one with deputy for the whole Province. I do not think so for these reasons:—In the first place it would be I think impossible to get a suitable man in each district to act. I use the word *suitable* instead of *competent* because, be it remembered, something more than mere competency to detect and deal with foul brood is required in an Inspector under the provisions of that Bill. Indeed, a great deal more is required, and we shall be doing very well if we succeed in getting one or two suitable men at a time with the whole province to select from. The reader will observe that that Bill is very stringent and direct in its provisions, giving the Inspector a great deal of power, both arbitrary and discretionary. No milk and water affair would have been of any use for the purpose intended. Seeing then that so much power and responsibility rests upon the Inspector under that Act it behooves us to place none but suitable men in the position. Indeed I had to promise that much on behalf of the O. B. K. A. or the Bill would undoubtedly have been weakened if not emasculated in its most essential provisions. The Minister wrote me from the Legislative Committee while the Bill was in their hands stating the objection that such a power in the hands of the Inspector might be abused, and great injustice might be done. I answered at length, strongly urging that the power, prerogative and discretionary which the Bill placed in the Inspector's hands were absolutely necessary and indispensable to the accomplishment of the important work proposed to be done. In thus urging that the power complained of should stand in its ample integrity I could do nothing less in return than, as president of the Society, to promise that the O. B. K. A. or its representatives would exercise the utmost care and discretion in the selection of officials to fill so important and responsible a position. Under such circumstances I certainly never could con-

sent, so far as I am concerned, to the appointment of a dozen or two more or less unsuitable and irresponsible officials instead of one or two good ones. Nor do I think the Bill would have passed at all in its present efficient form with any such arrangement in prospect.

A little reflection will convince the objector that the proposed district inspectorship would not work on other grounds. He will agree that in making the appointments the best and most practical men should be selected. And as these are the very men who are engaged more or less extensively in the bee business they could not be induced to make such a sacrifice in their business as district inspectorship would inevitably involve, with the exception perhaps of one or two districts in Western Ontario. Except in these the district Inspector would have but little comparatively to do—not enough to pay him to go when he was called upon which would very likely be at his busiest time in the honey season. He would not be warranted under such circumstances, nor could we reasonably expect him, to leave his yard to attend to such a call when he would lose treble what he would make. On the contrary, a Provincial Inspector will be expected to, and must, hold himself in readiness to respond promptly to any call, or in the case of sickness or other sufficient cause, send his deputy, who, by the way, must also be a suitable man. This he can afford to do, while the district inspector could not. As to travelling "from one end of the province to the other," I say, certainly, he must do so whenever it is necessary, and the Government would rather pay the expenses of that than scatter the same amount over a dozen officials and run the risk of incompetent and blundering work and consequent injustice to the victim, and so ought we for that and other reasons.

As to how the Inspector is to be paid I find from correspondence received as well as from statements in JOURNAL that there is misapprehension. Of course even such a Bill as we have would be comparatively worthless in our hands without the *wherewithal* to back it up and make it "go." The Association with its present revenue could do little or nothing in supplying the "sinews of war." Being well aware of this, at our first meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, the deputation fully impressed upon the Minister this important aspect of the question. Mr. Drury accordingly promised that a grant should be made to pay the salary and expenses of the Inspector. I may say further that the deputation were unanimous in the opinion, the Minister also coinciding, that there should be no fixed salary for the Inspector.