

generally thought that the in this district was taken blossoms. This Mr. Todd is partly correct for the the honey is taken from snowberry, which is very the honey obtained in this good quality. At Pender, Mr. Todd found very ver honey.

ves next week on a lec- ough the Mainland dis- Times.

inson, of Victoria, B. C., e above as follows:

a statement in the Times made by Mr. Todd, who authority on bee culture, income from honey pro- . is in the neighborhood annum. Such statements ering the good intentions ent to foster the bee in- . are detrimental in the induce many people to go g with expectations quite ties, bringing disappoint- re to themselves and dis- epartment of Agriculture. ay help to show the utter Mr. Todd's statements:

Bee-Keepers' Association (ve been a member) col- from their members each as to the number of col- yield of honey, so as to or the season.

yield from 15,000 colonies ., or an average of 59 lbs. crease of one pound per 8. This at 11 cents per olesale price in Ontario, 7,350.

good country for bee-keep- ge yield per hive is high. of Mr. Todd's figures for ia, and where in B. C., Todd, can he find 15,000 s, especially as his exper- to the last two weeks, has

been confined to Victoria alone, and that for two years only.

During my seventeen years residence in Victoria I have become acquainted with most of the honey producers, and am sure I am well within the truth, that there are not over 400 colonies of bees on Vancouver Island. The yield in good locations, in a fair season, has averaged about 35 lbs. per colony. This at 15 cents per pound wholesale, would bring the producers \$2,100. On these figures only can Mr. Todd base his estimates, as he knows nothing of the mainland production not having visited that section of B. C.

Mr. Todd tells us that in Cowichan the winter losses were 74 colonies out of 77, three colonies of bees only remaining in that district, which loss he attributes to the bees storing honey dew. His own losses in Victoria were 50 to 75 per cent. during the winter of 1908-9, and he puts the cause down to a dearth of pollen.

When an expert is in doubt on common everyday questions, what can he teach the inexperienced?

As honey dew (secretions of plants and insects) is with us most years, it would be, according to Mr. Todd's teachings, almost impossible to keep bees on Vancouver Island because of winter losses.

Mr. Todd need not despair, success will come as his practical experience increases, for he writes over his own signature "that all he knows of practical bee-keeping could be written on the back of a visiting card," and he is to be commended for his open candor.

Successful bee-keeping requires deep study, years of practical application and a natural aptitude to the business. With these qualifications it can be made one of the most interesting and profitable branches of rural occupation.

E. F. ROBINSON.

Victoria, B.C.

THE CONTROL OF SWARMING.

Indexed Purpose of Co-operative Experiments.

Morley Pettit, Provincial Apiarist.

There is nothing on the farm which requires so little care in proportion to the returns as the bees. This is why they are so often kept at a loss; because the care they need is so small that it is utterly neglected. They require only a little attention; but what they do require they **must** have.

It is to call attention to this bit of work and to help fit it into its proper place among the other farm duties, that these co-operative experiments are being undertaken. They are called experiments, but the method of management described is one which has been proven a success.

It is farthest from the purpose of this work to induce people to start bee-keeping without carefully counting the cost. There are already over six thousand beekeepers in Ontario. What is needed is not more beekeepers, but better bee-keeping. Besides giving bees their proper place on farms where they already exist, it is hoped that the specialist will be helped to organize his work so as to enable him to keep more bees and also get better average returns.

Business Methods Needed.

The management of an apiary for honey must be approached in the same business-like manner as the management of a dairy herd for milk. There is no more "luck" or "chance" in the one than in the other. Scientific principles govern both. Failure in either is due to some definite cause, which must be discovered and mastered before success can be obtained.

One first principle in handling any live stock is to be master of the situation. One cannot get full value from a horse until it is completely under control. It is the same with bees. To be a successful beekeeper one must be a bee-master; not in any cruel sense, any more than with a horse. To manage a horse one must