

for the sake of the argument that this is true, and ought to be carried out in its narrowest sense in every department of life, my position still remains unaffected, for bee-keeping is a perfectly legitimate part of the farmer's "trade." I have never either publicly or privately advised every Tom, Dick, and Harry to go into bee-keeping. I have not even advised every farmer to keep bees. But every farmer has the right to do so so far as "Critic's" principle is concerned, and anybody else has the same right so far as any principle of equity or ethics is concerned. True, the principles of economy might say no to any body or everybody going into bee-keeping but nobody has any moral right to say no to his neighbor except on the one ground of priority or pre-occupation of territory. And even then his case would not always be sound for he might happen to be a "bloated monopolist" or selfish egotist, fattening at the expense of his fellows.

I re-iterate and re-affirm that the farmer has not only the moral right but the economic, social, legal and every other right to keep bees; and I have the right to say so and will say so over my own name. The horticultural specialist, or the market gardener, might just as well go to the farmer who has a few apple and plum trees for his own use, and grows a little lettuce and asparagus for his table, and protest that he had no right to be raising these things, as for a specialist bee-keeper like "Critic" to go to him and protest that he had no right to keep a few colonies of bees. As well might the dairyman with his thousand acre *ranch*, who turns not a sod, go to the small farmer and say, "here, you have no business to be raising butter and beef, you ought to stick to the grain raising and buy your butter and beef of me. Every man to his trade."

The fact is agriculture legitimately includes all of these—apiculture, horticulture, stock-raising, etc.; and if there is really any right of interference or protest on either side it rests with the farmer who might with some show of reason say to such a man as "Critic," "get out of the bee business; you are trenching on my ground; if you wish to keep bees go and get land and work it and then you will have the right to keep bees."

Name next time, Mr. Critic. Stand by your colors.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont.

No! friend Pringle, we do not agree with "Critic" at all, as regards "who should keep bees." Our writings have always been in favor of farmers as bee-keepers, and we wrote only a week or

two before "Critic's" article appeared, an editorial suggesting the idea that a lecturer should be appointed by the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, who should hold himself in readiness to attend Farmers' Institutes throughout the country, giving instructions on bees and bee-keeping generally. We have even been charged with enticing everybody into the business by painting its profits in roseate hues. We were quite willing, however, to give "Critic" an opportunity of putting his opinions on record, so that those "on the other side" could pull down the wall of opposition which he ("Critic") had raised against the farmer. We do not think that "Critic" is afraid of his own identity, so his reply will, we expect, be over his own name.

For the Canadian Bee Journal,

Dr. Miller's Criticisms.

MY engagements this winter have been very unfavorable to my keeping the run of the journals. I have had a divided mail, my family being in Guelph, while my own head-quarters have been here at St. Thomas. My time has been fully occupied, and I have not kept myself as thoroughly posted as usual. On trying to catch up and "catch on" the other day, I found the C.B.J. for Feb. 1st a-missing. On sending for it, lo! and behold, Dr. Miller had been giving me three sharp prods and I was all unconscious of it! Now, I should be sorry to have the worthy Dr. think I would slight him, or had found him unanswerable, or had taken a fit of the sulks. So I seize the first bit of leisure to reply to his criticisms.

I am not surprised that the good doctor seems a little pleased to think he has got some chance for a poke at me. He owes me one or more, and I can see the smile of sweet, quiet satisfaction that overspread his amiable countenance while he was writing the article that appears on page 912, C.B.J. I have no doubt he had a little giggle all to himself as he reviewed his criticisms and realised how completely he had pricked my illusions about hibernation and the sting-trowel, and let the wind out of them. But even illusions die hard, as we see in the case of his own in regard to legislation about bee-territory. If illusions evince great tenacity of life, realities are invulnerable. There is no spear deadly enough to slay them. "Truth, crushed to earth, still lives."

Martin Luther was wont to say, "He who would preach well, must discriminate well." The same is true of the critic. Now, the doctor