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FOR WOMEN—II.

Robson

(last month.)
ask whether if many
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our very existence.
it to the hives in the
has warmed the air

until it is all atingle with the new life. As the packing is removed the warm, brown mass of bees boils up intoxicatingly over the frames. You lift a card from the centre of the cluster and find it full of sealed brood and larvae. From hive to hive you go, noting the condition of each. Here is one which is short of stores; there is one that has more than it needs; and so on through the yard. I don't think there is anything which sounds better to the bee-keeper than the hum of the bees in early spring, so full of repressed life, so full of promise for the harvest to come. Later comes the search for the fecund, pendulous-bodied queens. There is always a gentle rivalry between my sister and myself as to which shall find the greater number. Then to watch the cells being filled up with honey and being capped with the beautiful wax; the satisfaction of lifting the heavy cards; of watching the rich, golden liquid rolling from the over-filled cells as the uncapping knife prepares them for the extractor, and later filling the shining pails from the storage can. In the fall are the preparations for winter, until at last, every hive full of bees and stores, they are packed away for the winter,—and you are free.

Some time ago I read in one of the bee journals that a bee-keeper is always a philosopher, and there is something of truth in it. You can work day after day among the bees, where there is no such thing as self aggrandisement, when the individual is always sacrificed to the benefit of the whole; where all are content to labor to their utmost, and others will eat the fruits of it. You cannot be in the midst of this day after day without learning some lessons. Nor can you imagine anything more suggestive of peace and contentment than to stand in the midst of a bee-yard with the sun beating down warmly, the air heavy with the perfume of blossoms, the sun-

shine glinting on golden wings, and all about you the steady hum of bees rising in a subdued roar. O! then you know how goodly a thing it is to be alive.

Now, in conclusion, we are in the midst of a period of wonderful development. Our country is alive as never before. If the women of Ontario would take their proper place they must become capable, well trained and efficient. It will give then a fuller insight into life and broaden their sphere of usefulness. We cannot hope to compete with men in business. It would be a poor thing for the race if we could, but at least we can develop the best that is in us, that we may be worthy to rear and train a race worthy of the noble heritage of this Canada of ours.

[From an address to the Milverton Women's Institute.]

DESIRES FREE TRADE—NOT RECIPROCITY

Wm. L. Couper

I am certainly inclined to side with the able editor of the Woman's Department, in her assertion that logic has little to do with human affairs. "Right thinking" seems to be rather a vague definition of logic, which I should rather be inclined to define as "correct deduction from accurate premises," though I admit that this is clumsy. Logically, direct taxation is the more economical method, actually it is always more unpopular than indirect because the tax payer thinks he may avoid the latter.

In this province of British Columbia the reciprocity bill is hopelessly unpopular even among the Liberals. Even now the American fruit growers compete successfully for the North-West market, owing to the much lower price of labor on the other side of the line. I don't think the bill will hurt the honey-producer