

time, do the rough pruning in the orchard, so the air can get through the trees and do that part of the work that spraying takes care of ordinarily.

Honey is in a different position to fruit. Fruit is tolerated simply because it can be used in this country to replace certain foodstuffs which are expensive and necessary, and which will later have to be exported. Honey is needed to replace sugar, which is scarce. Any increase in the production of honey must, of necessity, come from men already engaged commercially in the industry. Not the small bee-keeper with a few hives, but the man or woman who is engaged in the business as a business, and making money out of it. You can take 200 colonies of bees and divide them among fifty men or women who are not particularly skilled in work, and put the same number with a man who already has 200 to 300 colonies, and no doubt the man who has 200 additional can get twice as much honey as the first fifty would. That is because the small bee-keepers do not pay attention or put the time on the bees that they should, and do not get the results.

The high price of honey will undoubtedly stimulate those already in the industry to produce every pound of honey they can possibly get from the hives. The best bee-keeper in the United States at the convention last month told the bee-keepers there that he had every assurance that, so far as the United States was concerned, that the price would be even higher than for the past season. I can assure you those were very high prices.

What about the increase in the stock of bees in the country? The increase generally comes from three methods—natural swarming, nucleus and combless package, which is imported. The aim of the experienced bee-keeper is to do away with natural swarming, because he knows he gets as big a surplus from a colony that has no swarming impulse, and he aims to do away with natural swarming, and, if he wants an increase, he gets it from the nucleus. It is almost impossible to get a surplus from the colonies during the first season from the nucleus. So that there is nothing left for the coming season, and if the bee-keeper wants to get a good surplus, he has to go into the importation of the combless package. The matter was discussed at the convention, and it was turned over to the Bee-keepers' Association to look after the importation of bees in this manner. It has been tried the past two seasons, but trouble was experienced in selecting experienced men. The Association, however, has been engaged for a number of seasons in the importation of queen bees for the improvement in the stock, and that scheme worked out successfully, so they turned over the importation of the combless package to the Association as well. Some preparations have been made for increased production in the coming season. In the spring, of course, where the hives are low in stores, it will be necessary to feed again, so as to have a well built up, beautiful white honey when the season opens.

Re-queening is becoming quite an important matter with the bee-keepers in the Province, and thousands of queen bees are imported every year where there is a deterioration in stock.

Protection from disease has been very largely in the hands of our Department, and we hope to be able to look after it again the coming season as we have in the past.

The indications are that there should be good crops, both of fruit and honey, in the coming season; sufficient, I think, to take care of our markets, possibly more than enough to take care of our markets in reference to apples. This will mean a certain amount of cheap fruit for the consumers in the Province, which they haven't had for some years.