

## ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The President—We will now ask Mr. Denis Nolan to give his paper on "Out Apiaries," and as Mr. Post is not here we will ask Mr. Saunders of Agerton to open the discussion.

Mr. Nolan—In dealing with the question of out apiaries it seems to me to be a pretty broad question and one we might spend a great deal of time discussing, and I don't propose to cover all the ground in this paper. I will just give you an outline of some things that I thought to be of interest and which will bring out the discussion.

### OUT-APIARIES.

[Paper by \*Dennis Nolan.]

In dealing with this question, it might be considered by a great many bee-keepers as one in which they had little interest, as such a small percentage of those who keep bees ever manage out-yards. However, I think if we look a little closer into the matter we will find that it is of more or less importance in bee-keeping.

Only in rare instances do we find persons who are fortunate enough to have a locality, a strain of bees, or some superior system of management, which enables them to keep a sufficient number of colonies in one yard to allow them to be classed as specialists in bee-keeping, or large producers of honey. Bee-keepers who are almost wholly depending on their honey crop as their source of income are desirous that their crop should be of such proportions as to furnish them ample funds for a comfortable living, find that under ordinary conditions such a quantity of honey cannot be produced in one apiary alone. By distributing their colonies in yards away from our home yard we are enabled to allow our

bees a much larger area to gather nectar from, without having to travel great distances. By doing this we can keep a large number of colonies, devote all our time and study to this one work, be a specialist in this particular line, always looking for better things in management, production and marketing of honey, etc., we are accomplishing for the bee-keeping world something which cannot be overlooked, besides turning into a sole occupation a profitable and pleasant work, which in a great many instances is regarded as a mere side line.

From what I can learn, from observation and otherwise, the fewer number of colonies kept in a given area the better results are secured. Taking this as a basis, we will have to determine to our own satisfaction what is going to be the limit of the number of colonies kept in one yard, according to our own management and locality. Speaking on my own experience, I would suggest one hundred good colonies in the spring, which might be increased to one hundred and fifty during the season. To increase these numbers would mean that you reduce the yield per colony, increase the desire to swarm, and have a larger amount of bees and brood to sustain on the nectar of the field covered. To reduce the number means you reduce the income on your investments, viz., cost of establishing yard, cost of maintaining yard, attendance, etc.

In establishing out-apiaries, the first consideration should be locality. The area to be covered by the bees should furnish ample forage without traversing territory covered by bees from other yards, which would place it about three miles from any other large yard. See that the territory has some honey and pollen-yielding trees and shrubs for spring stimulation, as well as full quota of bass-wood, clover, and perhaps a little buckwheat. A locality can