

## MORE GOVERNMENT AID FOR BEE INDUSTRY

(THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE)

Much as the busy bee has been extolled in poetry, prose and proverbial lore, it is a remarkable fact that the bee-keeping industry has seldom received from Governmental offices the encouragement and support which its own importance and its immense incidental benefits to other phases of agriculture unquestionably warrant. Perhaps this is partly attributable to the limited numbers and unaggressive attitude of bee-keepers, but more particularly, we surmise, to the woeful lack of general knowledge concerning the great value of bees in pollenizing fruit, clover and buckwheat blossoms. Indeed, bee-keepers are frequently anathematized by neighbors who really owe them a deep debt of gratitude for many an extra barrel of fruit or bushel of alsike seed. That orchards yield best, other conditions being equal, in the neighborhood of apiaries, is a matter of repeated comment among observant horticulturists. And yet, scores and hundreds of orchardists and farmers deny this, and berate the innocent apiarist, simply because they are uninformed regarding natural history, and too narrow and prejudiced to believe the statements of experts who have investigated the subject. There is great need for educational work in spreading knowledge of the value of bees to agriculture, as well as assisting bee-keepers by freely-endowed investigation and experiment in the various phases and difficulties of modern apiary practise.

The value of the bees as an object-lesson for nature study, and of honey as a food, commends it. It

displaces no other stock, withholds not a foot of ground from cultivation, outside the limited quarters of the apiary, and abstracts nothing from the fertility of the soil. France, which utilizes every resource encourages bee-keeping liberally. In Northern Ontario, honey is one of the first crops a farmer can take. Canadian honey has won high laurels wherever exhibited. At the Centennial Exhibition, in 1876, Ontario honey took first prize. At the World's Columbian Exhibition, in 1893, Ontario Province received 17 awards, and the whole United States 28. At the Pan-American Exhibition in 1901, Ontario, with 21 exhibitors secured the only gold medal, and 33 diplomas of honorable mention. Medals of distinction have also been won at St. Louis, Mo. and Paris, France.

These considerations emphasize the propriety of a couple of recent resolutions passed by organizations of apiarists. The National Beekeepers' Association of the United States, at their last annual meeting at Harrisburgh, Pa., recorded a strong expression of opinion that all Federal, State and Provincial Departments of Agriculture give bee-keeping encouragement and the same help that other branches of agriculture receive; that complaint had been made that incompetent men had frequently been appointed in the position of lecturers in this subject.

At a recent convention of the Bee-keepers' Association of Ontario, a resolution was passed unanimously asking that exhibits be made at Toronto, London, Ottawa and other exhibitions, giving demonstrations in methods of producing honey, the

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