

that in many localities bee-keeping as a specialty is doomed. Letter after letter comes to me saying "I have no fault to find with the REVIEW, but three years with no honey crop are more than I can stand, and I am going out of the business." Some mention four and even five failures in succession. The trouble is drouth and a lack of blossoms. I am not a croaker, and I also know that as a rule, the best time to buy is when everybody else is selling; that the time to embark in a business is when others are abandoning it, but not so if the natural conditions are against the business. There are probably localities where bee-keeping as a specialty will always be a success. In mountainous regions where the forests cannot be cleared away nor the posies plowed up: in Florida where there are orange groves and there is no inducement to cut down the saw-palmetto or the mangrove growing with their roots in the tide-water; or those localities where the alfalfa sends its roots so deep into the earth that it can smile at dry weather; in these favored spots, and in the newer portions of the country, bee-keeping as a specialty can be followed with every hope of abundant success; but in those localities where the forests have been cut away, and the swamps drained, and fields of corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes and grass stretch away mile after mile, it is folly to attempt making a living by the keeping of bees. To attempt to make a poor honey locality a desirable one by planting for honey is still greater folly. If the conditions are such that it will pay to raise honey producing crops for the crop alone, such crops will be raised—otherwise not. Where three, four and five years of failure come in succession, it is foolhardy for men to cling to bee-keeping alone hoping that 'next year will be a better one.' In fact, unless the purse is a long one, necessity will compel the adoption of some other business. If one has kept

bees so long that he would feel lost without them, and I am one of that class, he can take up some other vocation as his main business, letting the bees become a side-issue. It is astonishing to see with how little care an apiary can now be managed. It may be almost reduced to this; setting the bees out of the cellar, putting on the supers, hiving the swarms, taking off the honey and putting the bees in the cellar. Possibly the swarming may yet be done away with.

To sum the matter up in a few words, bee-keeping in the early days was a side-issue, then it became a specialty and will remain such in favorable localities, but over a large portion of the country it will again become a side-issue; but improved hives, implements and methods will make of it a more desirable and profitable avocation than it was in days gone by.

Notes from Florida.

C. D. DUVALL.

You see Mr. Editor my notes cannot come from "Linden Apiary" this time as I will be located right here until April 15th, when I will return to Maryland again. While beekeeping here is managed somewhat different from what it is in Canada, yet a few remarks from here no doubt will be of interest to the readers of the Bee-Keeper. At the present time we are feeding to stimulate brood rearing so as to have bees ready for the first honey flow, which comes from orange blossoms and usually commences from Feb. 20th to March 1st. and lasts about four or five weeks; the yield is said to be from 75 to 100 lbs. per colony. sometimes more; but this year the severe freeze has injured the trees to such an extent, it is uncertain yet how much bloom they will have from orange. In other sections, not in the orange belt, they get a flow about the same time from what they call Titi and Tuplar