

attended to his bees very freely; seemed to get along with them very nicely for a time, but then fruit was suffering. He had to leave his bees and attend to the fruit. While he was attending to the fruit the bees would fly away. After awhile the moth would begin to enter into some of the hives and play havoc with them. The bees after a short time went into winter quarters very weak. They came out weak and silent. They wouldn't combine. These two things will not combine except on a small scale; but to make a profit so as to be recommended to us as fruit-growers is a very doubtful question.

Mr. HOLTERMANN: I am not anxious to convert any of you into bee-keepers. I was asked to present the question and have done so. We know there are a great many men in the country who are combining fruit-growing with other things. They have a small farm, or they have cows, pigs and so on; and why not bees under those circumstances? Of course if a man keeps nothing but fruit, and devotes his entire attention to it, he is all right—there is nothing like that kind of a man; he will advance the fruit-growing industry and will be a successful man himself. The farming community is suffering from combining too many things. If you are so situated that you can keep bees with advantage, keep them; if not, keep out of the business. As far as the moth is concerned, our good friend must have been behind the times—he must have had black bees—because if he had Italian bees I guarantee they will not trouble him.

Mr. CASTON: How about the market for honey? Is it likely to continue?—a sufficient demand at a fair price?

Mr. HOLTERMANN: We find no difficulty in marketing our honey and that of a good many others. The price has depreciated in the last two years, but it is like everything else—like the fanning-mill which sold for \$30 two years ago, and is selling for \$15 to-day. Bee-keepers must understand how to produce for less money. I think in the neighborhood of Brantford honey is selling at 12½ cents a pound, and 9 pounds for \$1, and in exceptional instances I believe 10 pounds for \$1. Whether the depreciation in the price of honey will remain I do not know.

Mr. CASTON: You don't call that a bad price?

Mr. HOLTERMANN: That is not a bad price. Of course if a man wholesales he has to sell for less. Bee-keepers feel that they are not getting what they should; and a good many bee-keepers feel that others should not go into the business.

The SECRETARY: Our busy season begins when the busy season begins with the bee-keeper—about the berry season. How long does your busy season last?

Mr. HOLTERMANN: To the middle or end of July. As to swarming. I have not a great deal of sympathy with people who have to hive a great many swarms. For the last six or seven years I have not had more than an average of twenty per cent. of swarms. If you manage your bees rightly, that is, shade them, ventilate them, and so on, the swarming will be reduced to a minimum, and you will also get more honey. There is no money in selling bees at the present time. In the spring of the year, if you are posted in the business, you can buy for \$5 a colony, and thus save the risk of wintering. A friend of mine, Mr. C. A. Post, of Murray, has 346 colonies of bees and never has a man to watch the swarm at all.

Mr. MORRIS: I believe the bee-keepers have got a little the start of the fruit-growers by having a law passed that the fruit-growers will not be allowed to spray trees while flowers are in blossom. Now it is well known that the bees not only carry pollen and produce fertilisation, but also carry the disease known as "yellows" in peaches, and spread them. Now shouldn't we take a leaf out of the bee-keepers' book, and have a law passed that bees shall not carry the yellows?—(laughter)—or if they do make their owners responsible, because they do it.

Mr. HOLTERMANN: I think the fruit-growers have for many years had the start of the bee-keepers, and I believe they have the start of them yet. Of course I am not prepared to say whether bees transmit poison or not, and I have an idea that it is altogether likely; no one else is prepared to say whether that is the case or not. I would not care

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