

three brood-frames carried away, and the remaining frames, more or less full of honey, piled iglepigledy on each other, and the bees clustering as best they could between and upon them. The queen was all right, so I fixed up the hive again, and took special pains to prepare it for winter. If it survives until spring, we shall see what we see. This was a very mysterious circumstance. I wonder if Mr. McEvoy can explain it.

Now I have stated these facts in as fair and circumstantial a manner as I can, because I wish to call the attention of bee-keepers to the practical working of our Foul Brood Law. Especially do I wish to call the attention of the legal lights of bee-keeping—such men as Hon R L Taylor, Messrs J. E. Pond, G. W. Demaree, and others, to this piece of legislation. I do not wish to say anything hard of Mr. McEvoy, or to be unfair to him in any way, though I think he pursued a very high-handed course with me, and treated me very unkindly, considering the friendly terms we have always been on previously. Why did he not call on me? I had asked for his visit of inspection, and was prepared to welcome him and carry out his official orders. I have no doubt he thought he was carrying out his functions according to law, but the law reserves some rights to criminals even, and does not put arbitrary power into the hands of such high and mighty officials as inspectors.

I have taken legal advice about this matter, not that I intend to litigate about it, for I do not. But I am told by my lawyer that the Act does not empower the inspector to go on to a bee-keeper's premises without the knowledge and consent of the owner, and that it does not empower him to burn hives of bees unless they are in a hopelessly foul-broody condition. If they are curable he is bound to give them a chance to be cured. Furthermore,

the law does not put into the Inspector's hands any power of punishment. He cannot visit any official wrath on an offender. If a bee-keeper can be shown to be culpably and criminally negligent, the Inspector is to bring him before a magistrate and have him fined in due course of law. So that Mr. McEvoy is liable for trespass, for destroying colonies that might have been cured, and for taking the law into his own hands by usurping the place of the magistrate who alone it is to be "a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well."

But I wish particularly to ask the opinion of bee-keepers, and especially the legal gentlemen among them, on the principle underlying this kind of legislation. Is it a sound and good one? I opposed our Foul Brood Act when it was first mooted on various grounds. I have never suggested its adoption by United States bee-keepers. I now submit my own example of its practical working, that they may judge for themselves.

If Mr. McEvoy's interpretation of the Act is correct, and he has the right to go onto my premises and burn up my property at his discretion, without my having any appeal to magistrate or witness, judge or jury, I propose to submit quietly, and if I cannot get the law altered in a constitutional way, I shall seriously consider whether I will quit keeping bees, or emigrate to another country. I hope some of the great lights of bee-keeping will drop some of the threadbare subjects of which readers of bee-papers are getting so tired, and discuss this new topic. I hope, too, that the North American Bee-Keepers' Association will give this subject a prominent place in their discussions at the next meeting. If I am alive and well, I promise to be on hand and to have something to say that will not be "dull as a sermon."

Guelph, Ont., March 4th.