

of honey throughout the year. Beyond this, as a general rule, it will not pay them to go. The reasons for this are obvious enough; but those reasons do not apply to the professional orchardist. He can prosecute the business with as little inconvenience and as little tax upon his time as any one. The nature of his business confines him to the vicinity where his bees will be kept. In the season he will be on hand to capture and hive his swarms as they issue, and then resume his work. He can harvest his honey without interfering much with his other duties. This is usually done after small fruit is marketed and before the harvesting of larger fruit begins. Then he has a good deal of spare time in winter, a part of which may be devoted to hive-making and other appliances used in the business of beekeeping. As a rule, he will make a better beekeeper than the farmer, because he is more accustomed to attend to details in small things, which counts not a little in the successful management of bees. Apart from the beneficial results accruing from the work of bees on fruit bloom, most fruit growers may considerably augment their income by adding beekeeping to their business.

All this by way of introduction as to the best way to begin the business. It is not at all necessary—nor is it desirable—to incur a heavy outlay in starting; on the contrary, it would be unwise to do so. Bees multiply so fast that their increase will keep pace with the growing knowledge of their keeper on managing them. In time the problem with most people is, how to prevent becoming over well stocked. Two stocks are quite enough to begin with. These should be bought in the spring, and, if possible, purchased from a reliable neighbor. There is no extravagance in paying a good price for them, provided they are strong in bees and well provided with food against the time of need. A strong working force is the secret of getting honey. It is absurd to expect large results from a small working party. One strong hive is worth half a dozen weak ones. To collect and store honey in a short time—and the honey season is short—there must be a large working force in the field. A hive of bees is valuable or otherwise, just in proportion to its numerical strength, coupled with the presence of a young and vigorous queen. The novice will not be in a position to make a wise selection—hence, the wisdom in purchasing from one in whose honesty he has confidence. The price should be a secondary consideration; low priced things are seldom cheap. When approaching a man with the view of making a first purchase, don't do so with the question, "What do

you want for a hive of bees?" As well ask him, "What price do you ask for a cow?" There is just as much difference in the value of one hive of bees as compared with another, as there is between one cow as compared with another. Some of both are dear at any price.

The beginner should start with not more than two or three stocks. He should commence in the spring. He will consult his own interest by buying from a man whose reputation for honesty is unquestioned. He should bargain for the best, and be prepared to pay a good price. This being done he may reasonably expect two swarms from each stock by the middle of August. For these he should provide hives similar to those in which the parent stock are, and which may be purchased from almost any supply dealer. He should subscribe for the Canadian Bee Journal and provide himself with one or other of the standard books on beekeeping advertised in its columns. The rest may be left for his zeal in the work, or his inquisitive disposition to find out.—R. McKnight, in *Canadian Horticulturist*.

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S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, March 28, 1893.

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