

organization and development of these branches are enumerated in an article in No. 10 of the Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence published by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. Passing over some interesting statistics as to the insurance of cattle and crops, we are told that in Switzerland there is a third branch of agricultural insurance—that of bees against foul brood. This insurance is carried out by two Swiss apicultural societies, its aim being the indemnification of its members against losses caused by this disease. It gives them the right to gratuitous treatment of their hives, either affected or suspected, to needful help for disinfection, and thirdly to an indemnity of 75% on the value of the destroyed hives. In 1911, in German Switzerland alone, of 25,000 bee-keepers, 7,532 were insured, and of about 180,000 hives, 105,170 were insured. By an order of the Federal Council of December 3rd, 1909, foul brood was included in the law dealing with cattle diseases. The Federation also attends to the care of affected hives and of insurance. In the three cantons of Fribourg, Vaud and Neuchâtel insurance of bees is compulsory.

In the above quoted article the principal data concerning foul brood insurance from 1908 to 1911 are given, and will serve as a guide to progressive apiculturists in other countries who may wish to follow in the steps of those of Switzerland.

EXPERIMENTAL UNION ANNUAL MEETING

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union will hold its annual meeting at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on the 7th and 8th of January next.

The co-operative experimental work of the Union has been more extensive during the past year than at any previous time. Six different committees have

conducted active work in 1912. In agriculture alone experiments were conducted on 5,027 farms in Ontario. The summary results of these experiments will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting.

Besides the presentation of the results of experiments, there will be addresses and discussions on the following special subjects: "Possibilities of Intensive Farming in Ontario," "Division of Labor on the Farm," "The Operation and Value of the Seed Control Act of 1911," "Conveniences in the Home and on the Farm," "Ontario's Part in Federal Agricultural Cooperation," etc.

These meetings are open to any one interested in agriculture. Cheap rates have been arranged for on the certificate plan. For fuller particulars apply to the Secretary, C. A. Zavitz, Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

"HARMLESS BEES"

Anent the "stingless bee," the *Irish Bee Journal* says:

Some interest has been aroused by the publication, in the *Daily Sketch* of October 2nd, of a reference to a strain of harmless bees which, it was said, Mr. Burrows, of Loughton, had obtained after two years' experimenting. The bees were said to be "a mixture of the Cyprian drone and the Italian queen," so gentle that a child could handle them with perfect safety, and such diligent workers that, in the past most unfavorable season, 212 pounds of honey had been taken from one hive. The *Times*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and other leading newspapers, followed with reports of this new achievement; the bees were described as less liable to disease than English bees; not stingless, indeed, but having innocuous stings.

Naturally enough, a large number of our correspondents have written to us for information. They think that

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