

—too little or too much, or at the wrong time—and upon insects on every hand, upon injurious fungi of every description, such as rust and smut, plum knots and apple scab, and we know not how many others. I sometimes speak strongly in favor of farming in preference to other occupations, but there are certain things which make it clear that the farmer is different from other people in this, that the product of his labor depends on circumstances over which he has no control. They are at the mercy of wind and weather. Now we must admit they can never be sure that they are going to have a fair return for their labor, however skillfully it may be performed. That being so, I would venture to say that in my judgment it is generally advisable for a farmer to confine his whole attention to any one line or branch of his occupation; that it is not wise for him to put all his eggs into one basket. Of course, I would not be understood as saying that farmers any more than anyone else should be a Jack of all trades and master of none. I hold that every farmer should have a specialty of some kind. He should consider the market and the climate in which he lives, his soil, his tastes, his ability and his capital, and then make up his mind to devote his attention chiefly to some one thing, and in that aim to surpass all others, if possible. At the same time he should have certain subsidiary lines of work to carry him through bad seasons and to protect him against the vicissitudes to which he will be subjected. In the United States, as well as here, most people look upon bee-keeping, fruit-growing and poultry-raising as among the subsidiary lines of work, and even as such I think it deserves grateful attention on the part of farmers. If our farmers generally in this province understood the theory and practice of bee-keeping, and devoted some little time to bee-keeping, many of them would be better off than they are. I have no hesitation in saying that the measure of comfort in many homes would be very largely increased. Some will be disposed to say that I ought to place bee-keeping among one of the leading lines of agriculture. I suppose some of you would undertake to make a good handsome living out of bee-keeping. But in this country we think of bee-keeping as one of the subsidiary lines of work that would come in to assist a man and add materially to the comforts of his own home. I think there is nothing to prevent a very large portion of our people adding very much to their incomes from bee-keeping. Something might be said of ranking bee-keeping as one of the important lines of agriculture, for you remember

Virgil laid sufficient stress on bee-keeping to devote to it one of the four books of his great work on agriculture. He says:

"First for thy bees a quiet station find,
And lodge them under cover of the wind;
Near by a living stream their mansion place,
Edged round with moss and tufts of meadow grass."

I do not suppose most of us can find living streams for our apiaries now. And he says:

"Wild thyme and savory set around their cell,
Sweet to the taste and fragrant to the smell."

Now, and after speaking of the wonderful instinct and intelligence of bees, he comes to this conclusion. Induced by such examples, some have taught:

"That bees have portion of ethereal thought,
Endued with particles of heavenly fire,
For God the whole great mass inspires."

That was Virgil's opinion long, long ago, and he thought bees had something more than ordinary animal intelligence, and he said:

"All with unity, force combined,
To drive the drones from their busy hive,
And on their sharp beaks they whet their pointed sting." (Laughter).

I have a word in conclusion about the Ontario Agricultural College, because I am here to represent that institution, not to represent the province nor the City of Toronto, but to represent the very centre and core of Canada in this province. I was rather surprised that the Minister of Agriculture forgot that great institution to which he has devoted so much of his time and energy in the last few years. This Ontario Agricultural College has just lately given its interest in bee-keeping something of a practical scope. For years Mr. W. F. Clarke and Mr. R. F. Holterman urged us to add bee-keeping to our list of studies. While we listened for a long time, as is usual with men connected with the government, for a long time, having taken it into our serious consideration, and at last we have decided to comply with their request.

Mr. Clarke delivered a course of lectures in the college in 1893 and 1894. In this present year, 1895, a permanent lectureship has been established in the college, and Mr. R. F. Holterman, your president, as one of the young active bee-keepers of Ontario, and, I believe on this continent, was appointed a lecturer, and is now lecturing on agriculture in this province, and I might say the Ontario Agricultural college is at the present time one of the few colleges on this continent or elsewhere that affords its students a full systematic course of instruction in the theory of bee-keeping, and I hope for some results in the work. If any of you are thinking of sending your