

home product. The character and quality of our honey is so good that its reputation is high both home and abroad. Let us preserve and maintain this good name by taking and handling our honey in a proper manner and by watching and putting down the first sign of adulteration.

The proper taking and doubling of honey means, in the first place, allowing it to ripen in the hives before removing it, or, when this is impracticable as it occasionally is, thoroughly ripening it after it is removed, and in the second place, never putting it on the market

UNRIPE, UNTIDY OR UNCLEAN.

Bee-keepers as a rule are intelligent, moral, neat and clean, but I have seen in my time a few slovenly ones who were a disgrace to the whole fraternity. This stricture is mostly applicable to those old-fashioned one-horse covens who still use the box hive in the summer, and fire and brimstone in the fall, and cut out honey, bee-bread, young bees, dead bees and all, and take this apiarian mush to market in old tin pails and pans and take what price they can get for it; or mash the whole up, strain it and market it in that shape. This is bee-keeping with a vengeance, and, of course, Ontario, like every other country, has a few such bee-keepers. But they are gradually diminishing, and must in time disappear along with other antique excrescences. But there is another side to this picture. Ontario has many first-class apiarists, and a few equal to any anywhere in the world, and these are constantly increasing in numbers.

As to the prospects and possibilities of bee-culture in this province, the prospects are that bee-keepers will continue to multiply and the industry continue to grow, until the ground in the habitable parts is pretty well occupied. This growth will probably not be so much in the direction of specialism as

bee-keeping in conjunction with farming, gardening, fruit raising, etc. Bee-keeping as an exclusive business is hardly safe except in the hands of a master who is favorably situated as to locality for forage. The business has its ups and downs, and its failures. One of these overtook the bee-industry the past season as you no doubt know. In Ontario, as a whole, there is perhaps not more than a third of an average crop, while in many of the states of the union the returns are much less. From a letter now before me from a leading bee-keeper in Nova Scotia, he says, "clover yielded no honey here this season."

The clover seems to have been pretty badly spring and winter killed the past season over a wide area on this continent, and this supplemented by the severe and wide-spread drouth, left the crop of light honey very short. The drouth extended so far into the fall as to also seriously affect the fall flow of honey, as buckwheat, which is the fall staple in many parts, only yielded moderately.

The question as to whether it would pay the bee-keeper who has land at his disposal to sow or plant specially for honey, is one much discussed and seriously considered in localities where failure of the honey crop is frequent. There seems to have been but little experimentation to settle the matter practically, and hence the divergence of opinion on the subject. My own opinion, which is founded on experience so far at least as two of the honey plants are concerned, is that it pays the bee-keeper who can do so, to sow and plant three honey producers, viz: alsike clover buckwheat and basswood, or linden. I have been sowing alsike and buckwheat for many years for honey, and both have paid well. These two plants hardly ever fail to yield nectar, while the white clover, which as you know grows spontaneously, often fails. Then we have the double crop from them—hay and