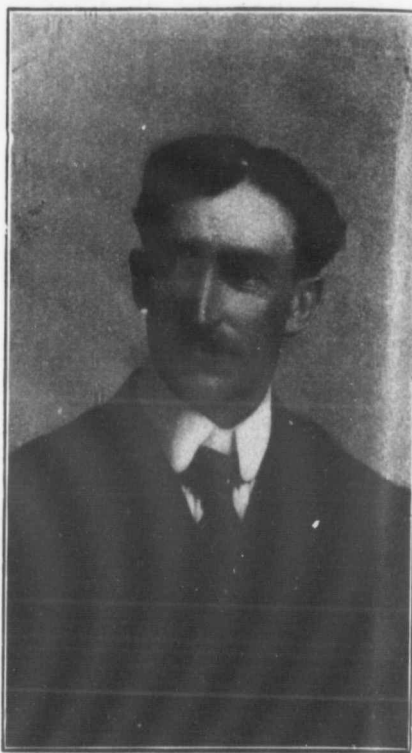


Unless, however, something is found to take the place of these activities, the woman of the future runs a great risk of being less broadly educated in the true sense of the word than the woman of the past. This is the age of specialization, and what more fitting than that the woman of to-day should specialize along those lines of work for which she is specially fitted. It will give her a new insight into life, a fuller sense of responsibility, and there is hardly any conceivable factor which would do more towards the building up of the prosperity of the country.

Now, among those employments which offer healthful and remunerative employment to women, bee-keeping—while not the most important—at least offers a wide and almost untried (in this country) field of effort, and as such is certainly worthy of serious consideration.

It was no pre-conceived plan which made a bee-keeper of me. It was one of those things which just happened. As long as I can remember, we had kept a few bees at home. I took no part in their management, but have vivid recollections of wild rushes after father when the bees were swarming. About ten years ago father purchased some 65 colonies with the intention of going in almost entirely for bee-keeping. For two seasons we were fairly successful; then a series of hard winters, coupled with poor management, sadly depleted our stock until in the spring of 1907, we were reduced to 18 colonies, and only about three of these were in good shape. During these years I had helped in the summer with the bees, and in the winter attended school in Toronto. I left school ardent to do something for the betterment of the world. The world was perhaps wiser than I, and was not particularly appreciative of my efforts; so, somewhat discouraged, I undertook to build up our apiary and bring it back to a paying basis, partly because nothing better



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offered worth leaving home for, partly because I wanted some money, and partly because I desired to prove in some way that I really was some good. And thus I found myself really launched as a bee-keeper. My equipment consisted of a little general knowledge of bees, 18 poor colonies, a good honey-house, and extractor, and a cumbersome quantity of supplies equal to running about 150 colonies. I have kept no account of things, so for the years which follow I have to trust to my memory, and can give you only approximate figures. I must not forget to mention a visit made at this time to the bee-yard of Mr. J. McEwan of Clandeboy, when Mr. McEwan very kindly gave me much good advice and encourage-

ment. That first season about double the normal only had a small quantity spring count 1908 was crop, 1,000 lbs.; in winter 45. Spring honey harvest 3,000 lbs. winter, 56 colonies. 55 colonies. Every year wonderfully this spring nice condition. However weather in March was out unusually early, seemed to sap their strength during apple blossom cold and wet, and up with brood. They were nearly ready for it bloom. The bass was good, which saved what; but even so, I had 100 lbs. of honey. I had increasing to 100 colonies time came to pack up I had to do a good deal to make them have found out, when bee-keeper finds, the winter weak colonies was eaten up by the for winter stores; as the first week in June were very low in stock colonies were also near spite of the appearance this year, I feel better than any yet, as I had to feel myself master have had practical experience in doubling, in rearing, and in moving have a good basis for Although the amount year may seem small the neighborhood, with one. The fall flow keeps things going; basswood, and alfalfa seed.