

humid. Oranges and lemons thrive and there is very little frost. The winters are wet as a Nile, and the summers fairly dry, but we have no two seasons alike, and the weather is very changeable. Spring begins in August, when the willows which line rivers come into leaf, and the bees get some honey from them. Then comes such bush as is left in patches in gullies, among the hills, or groups of cabbage palms left in the paddocks. Every year this source gets less and less, and is not to be relied on. About the middle of October the clover opens and bees begin to swarm, and continue swarming all through November, or if the weather is bad begin November and continue till Xmas. A great many of these swarms swarm again in January and February, so in a good season increase is easily attained. The honey crop comes from the clover and, as with you, from the thistle which blooms in January. With us, however, clover continues all along sometimes yielding well in February. Most farmers drive the stock from the paddocks in November and close them for rye grass seed till Xmas, so the bees have a good show, and when the machines have cut the grass, if a good rainfall, clover comes up again, and flowers better than ever. The thistle honey is certainly the most delicate and whitest we have. Unfortunately in all the paddocks closed for grass seed they are entirely destroyed, being entirely cut down by the machines before they come into flower, but in the paddocks of the dairy farmers and along the road sides, they still abound and are a valuable plant for the bee-keeper.

Here we have no fall honey, which is a great pity as we often have beautiful autumns. This year, for instance, after all the rain, March and April were lovely months, but useless for the bees. Still in a good season a strong hive will yield seventy or eighty pounds of honey, and stores for winter besides. I extract almost all my honey as there is a greater demand for extracted than comb honey. The price of honey is always a puzzle to me. The Wellington traveller of a large firm tells me he gets all he requires at three cents, and yet grocers in the same town pay me four and a quarter cents, and in Dunedin I sometimes get five cents in sixty-pound tins. I consider four cents a fair price and am contented, if it gets no lower.

It is difficult to arrive at any conclusion as to the prevalence of foul brood in New Zealand. There is a bee column in the *New Zealand Farmer*, but bee-keepers never write in it and it mainly consists of clippings from *Gleanings*. There is a bee journal in Australia, and there are many extensive bee-keepers in that country. Our honey is

thought more of in London than there which is chiefly gathered from gum trees.

I shall look forward to the arrival of your kind gift of Dr. Howard's book. I hope it will be in time for next spring's operations. Again thanking you for your letter, I am,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE STEVENSON.

Mr. Stevenson failed like all others in the world when he followed the Cheshire method, and tried to cure his apiary of foul brood by spraying and medicating the combs in foul broody colonies. The germs of foul brood are very hard to kill, and any drugs that would be used strong enough to destroy them would kill all the bees and all the good brood in the unsealed cells, and then leave the disease just as bad as ever in the sealed brood and capped honey. No foul broody apiary was ever cured or ever can be cured of that disease by drugs of any kind.

In the honey season when bees are gathering honey freely, any apiary can easily be cured of foul brood by removing the combs in the evening, shaking the bees back into their own hives and giving them comb foundation starters for four days to work out, and store the diseased honey in which they took from the old combs. Then in the evening of the fourth day by removing the new combs made out of starters and giving full sheets of foundation, the cure will be complete.

When the honey flow stops, this same method of curing can be continued right along by feeding plenty of sugar syrup in the evenings. All the old combs must be burned or made into wax, and all the new combs made out of the starters during the four days must be made into wax also or burned. All the work must be done in the evenings so as to have no confusion or mixing of bees or robbing done.

When Mr. Stevenson's colonies swarmed, if he had hived each swarm on comb foundation starters, his bees would have drawn out the starters in four days and stored the most of the diseased honey which they took with them from the old combs. Then by removing the new combs made out of the starters in the evening of the fourth day and giving full sheets of foundation, he would have made a perfect cure. Then Mr. Stevenson would have had over the 9 tons of honey the next year, and every colony cured and in grand condition.

Mr. Stevenson of New Zealand is one of leading bee-keepers of the world, and being a man of so much push, pluck and energy, I would be very much pleased to have my methods of curing foul brood thoroughly tested by him.

WM. McEVOY.

Woodburn, Ont., Aug. 1894.