

frames to cover in laying if proper super room is supplied and also ventilation. They can be usually left alone until more super room is required.

The only objection one has to offer is the weight to handle, but this can be arranged by taking out part of frames in a smaller case or super. Usually three supers is all that are required for the average colony, which represents thirty-six frames. The bees do not have to travel so high in storing, and not being hampered in any way, remain quite contented and give good results in honey yield. The hive referred to is the Holtermann twelve-frame hive.

SHOULD THE FARMER KEEP BEES?

BY J. W. CLARK.

In the *Farmer's Advocate* recently appeared an article from the pen of R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, who is well known as an old and experienced bee-keeper. I am somewhat surprised to learn that he so strongly objects to the work being done by the Department of Agriculture in apiculture at the O.A.C., Guelph. He censures the Government for trying to encourage more and better bee-keeping, saying the money would be more wisely spent if used in stamping out disease. This I consider somewhat of a reflection on the Provincial Apiarist, Mr. Morley Pettit, who has charge of the work. I believe Mr. Pettit is working along the correct line. The Government is always willing to help those who are willing to try and help themselves. Mr. Pettit has each year arranged a two weeks' short course at Guelph, which is free to every bee-keeper in the Province, where they can go and learn many lessons of value in better methods of handling bees. While there they will also be taught how to detect disease and how to treat same. Surely a bee-keeper who has disease in his apiary or suspects that something

is wrong will take this opportunity of finding out the best means of handling it.

From the large number who each year avail themselves of this opportunity and the students taking the regular courses who are instructed in apiculture, the time is not far distant when we will have in every county of the Province of Ontario bee-keepers who more thoroughly understand how to handle bees successfully and detect disease and cure it. Is not this a much surer means of finally mastering diseases of bees? But Mr. Holtermann says successful and extensive bee-keepers are not made at colleges and schools, but by coming in contact with the practical operations. True, this is so. But cannot a person by spending a few weeks at a short course gain information that would take them several years to learn from experience. I know of old experienced bee-keepers who have had foul brood in their apiaries and did not know it, simply because they never had an opportunity of knowing what it looked like and were unable to diagnose it. The writer has been in poultry, fruit and bee-keeping for some years, and knows what it costs to learn by experience. Had I at the time of commencement had the opportunity of taking a course at the O.A.C., such as is offered at present, I consider I would have saved at least two or three years' time in obtaining the same results.

Mr. Holtermann in his article says:

"Again, bees are well known to be very important agents in the pollination of blossoms, from which come fruit and seed of value to the farmer. But why is it that so many have gone into bee-keeping and made a failure of the business? When we look over sections of country where years ago dozens of men kept bees, we often find none or very few in the business now."

He further says that bee-keeping is not a business for farmers who have 100 acres of land to look after. If a farmer by keeping a few colonies of bees can so increase his yield in fruits and seed, why try and discourage him?

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