

again in Niagara with nine colonies; honey, two hundred pounds; no increase. 1892:—Started with two weak colonies, the balance having succumbed to dysentery, the cellar being too cold, as the house was unoccupied. Got six pounds of bees from Tennessee, which made two more colonies; honey, ten pounds (buckwheat); increase, one division. You will see by the above that five years give only twelve pounds per colony. You may also note that the product is mostly all from a few colonies in Toronto. Now, as to some of the reasons for failure in Niagara. In the first place I am too near the lake (half a mile); in the 2nd place it is too dry. In the summer our thunder storms mostly come from the west and almost invariably break, part going south by the Queenstown Heights, and part by the lake to the north. This cuts off our clover supply, which is our mainstay. The next is the lack of bush land and wild flowers, we certainly have plenty of trees, principally all fruit, apple, pear, plum, cherry and locust, which seem to yield well for a short time: there are also a good many basswood trees in the town. Peach, the tree mostly grown here, not seem to does yield any; at least, you will rarely see bees working on them. Goldenrod is also very plentiful around the fences of the bad farmers (good luck to them); but take it all through, this is not an all place for raising honey. However, some six or seven miles south of this, in the vicinity of the mountain range, there are lots of broken ground, and all kinds of wild flowers, as well as fruit trees. They also get the benefit of a more copious rainfall, which, I believe, will give good results.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN McKIMMIE.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.
CONVENTIONS.

It is generally conceded that conventions are of no benefit whatever to the practical beekeeper beyond the sociability connected with them. I am sometimes led to believe that they are not of much benefit even to

the novice either. The fact is, there is so much bee talk, and so many conflicting ideas, that it is almost impossible for the beginner to acquire from them any positive knowledge as to which is right and which is wrong. However, if anything is to be gained, looking at it from a practical standpoint, it must certainly be by the novice.

I notice by a recent JOURNAL that Mr. Gemmell has advanced some ideas which, if followed up, will make our conventions more valuable. I find that, with local associations, their success, to a great extent, lies with the president and secretary; and I have reason to believe that such is the case generally with all associations. Mr. Gemmell's ideas have not been lying dormant, but the reverse, as is usually the case with individuals who are interested in any special direction.

Some three or four years ago the Lambton Beekeepers' Association decided upon having a two days' meeting, with a concert upon the evening of the first day; but, somehow, the two days' meeting never materialized, nor the concert either. This, we mention, in order to show that others have thought along the same line as Mr. Gemmell. With local associations it would be more difficult to manage anything of this kind than with Provincial or other associations. As a rule, beekeepers who attend local associations do not care to lose more than one day, and expect to get home on the evening of that day. With the Ontario Association it is different; those who attend it expect to be away from home two or three days. The Farmers' Institutes are generally held in our town for a couple of days, and on the night of the second day they have a concert of local talent, with addresses from the members. I cannot see what is to hinder the O.B.A. from following the same course. Could they not go still further, and are there no poets within our ranks, to give us some songs or recitations on bees and honey matters, something that would instruct the public in relation to our pursuit. It is certain that the public should have more instruction or information about bees and