

In the past to blame the bee-keeper with a few colonies for cutting prices, but, if our locality is a fair criterion, this excuse is removed, as nearly all the bees around us are now kept by men who can be properly called specialists. By thus writing I would not be understood as being desirous of unduly raising the price of any commodity, and I honestly believe that with present conditions honey is well worth the price it is now selling at.

#### Clipping Queens.

As a great many bee-keepers seem to discount the practicability of my method of clipping queens, it is with a feeling of pleasure that I note that I have such good company as Mr. R. C. Aiken of Loveland, Colorado. As some have asked me how many legs I clip off, Mr. Aikens' testimony will answer that and other questions better than I am able to do so. In a well-written article in "American Bee Journal," page 261, entitled "Spring Management," Mr. Aiken has the following

to say re clipping queens: "For clipping I carry a little pair of scissors in my vest pocket; they are about as long as my finger, and when I locate the queen, out come those scissors, and they follow her until I get a blade under a wing, when off it goes. I don't cut one leg in many hundreds of queens—I think I have never clipped but one leg. I never attempt to catch the queen to clip her, except in rare cases, as in swarms, or when she is frightened so I cannot follow her with the scissors. Many never are aware they are clipped." I don't know if the scissors Mr. Aiken uses are straight or not. If they are straight, I feel sure that if he once used a pair of the curved, pointed surgeon's scissors, like the ones I have, he would get a pair at once. As to clipping legs, I remember of taking off one some few years ago, but that was before I adopted the better plan of clipping the queens without catching them.

Markham, Ont.



## The Middlesex County Convention

The Middlesex County Bee-keepers' Association met in the City Hall, London, Saturday, May 4th, morning and afternoon sessions. There was a good attendance of members and others. Among the visiting brethren were Messrs. W. A. Chrysler (Chatham), R. F. Holtermann (Brantford), Arthur Laing (St. Thomas), and the Editor of the "Canadian Bee Journal." The sessions were exceedingly interesting, and

the discussions heartily entered into by those present.

Wintering reports showed heavy losses in many instances, and in nearly all cases attributed to inferior stores—honey dew. Mr. John McEwen, Clandeboye, however, had an exceptionally cheering record, which illustrated the possibilities of successful wintering, having only lost three colonies out of two hundred; a neighbor has only four