

that I had found foul brood very widely spread through thirty counties. I succeeded in getting thousands of foul brood colonies cured, and the disease driven out by wholesale, and peaceful settlements made "in every case" where diseased stocks were sold through mistakes of the party selling, not knowing of their colonies being diseased at the time of sale.

Nine years ago very few among those that kept bees then were able to tell the disease from other kinds of dead brood, and not over half-a-dozen men in Ontario could cure an apiary of foul brood, and end the season with every colony in first-class order. The instructions that I have given while on my rounds through the province, and the driving-out of the disease by wholesale, will make Ontario one of the safest places in the world to keep bees in.

Mr. F. A. Gemmill of Stratford, Ontario, is the man that deserves the credit for all the work that I have done, and the government of our country that have paid for it.

In 1890 Mr. Gemmill took hold and worked hard until he got the Foul Brood Act passed, which has proved to be a great benefit to hundreds of bee-keepers.

I am greatly pleased with the way the bee-keepers took hold in the past season and cured these apiaries of foul brood.

Where I found a few worthless colonies almost dead from the disease late in the fall (and near fine sound apiaries) I burned them. The total number that I burned in the province were twenty colonies, after the owners and I had reasoned out things nicely together.

And for the courteous and very generous way that I have been treated by the bee-keepers of every locality that I went into, I return to them my most heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Holmes: In order to place the subject before the meeting I would only say that I think I would be voicing the desire of the meeting in saying we have all confidence in our Inspector of Apiaries; he does his work well, without fear or favor, and I would move the adoption and endorsement of Mr. McEvoy's report.

Mr. Newton: I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. Holmes' motion. I believe our inspector has worked faithfully not only in this season but in past seasons.

After several members had expressed appreciation of the work Mr. McEvoy had done, the motion was carried unanimously.

Bee Culture.

Paper read by R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, at a meeting of the Muskoka Farmers' Institute.

Bees belong to that class in the animal kingdom, known by naturalists as Insecta. Wasps, ants and sandflies are members of the same family. The natural history of bees is a large study in itself and can only be dealt with here in so far as it bears on the management of an apiary.

There are several varieties of bees; that which has been domesticated by man is known as *Apis Mellifica*, or the honey bee. The earliest historical references to this insect are found in the bible—Samson ate honey that had been stored in the carcase of a lion, previously slain by him. Honey is mentioned several times in the Old Testament; it is spoken of as dripping from the flinty rock, an allusion which shows that in ancient times, as now, the bees of Palestine took possession of rocky cavities as hives and stored honey in them. Wild honey formed part of the diet of John the Baptist. Honey and the honey comb are familiar scripture emblems.

Coming now to profane history, we