

# F. A. GEMMILL

Forty-Five Years a Bee-Keeper

IMPORTER OF FIRST ITALIAN QUEEN IN CANADA

Interesting Reminiscences

To have been more or less interested in bee-keeping for forty-five years, and still actively engaged in the pursuit, is the experience of Mr. F. A. Gemmill of London, Ont. He is still very much interested in apiculture, and allows no important convention to pass without being in attendance. We had the pleasure of meeting him at the last convention of the O. B. K. A. in Toronto, and again at the recent convention of the Brant District, in Brantford. It was here that we learned something of his career, and thought it worthy of special men-

tion in the C.B.J. There is also another reason why Mr. Gemmill should be specially remembered by the beekeepers of Canada. He is practically the father of the foul brood law of the province of Ontario. It was in great part owing to his persistent and well-directed efforts that the matter was brought before the Ontario Government and its importance pointed out. He was one of the first to become convinced that if the bees of the province of Ontario were to be saved from extermination the Government would have to take hold of the matter, and, by the appointment of inspectors, with certain powers, grapple with the difficulty. At the Oxford County B. K. Association, and also at the Ontario B. K. A. meeting at Belleville in 1890, he urged the passing of this law. He was assisted by Mr. Allen Pringle, who drafted the bill. Mr. J. E. Frith, now of Moosomin, Sask., who took a prominent part in this matter, and Mr. Gemmill, were delegated as a committee to wait upon the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chas. Drury, to urge the legislation, with the result that Canada became possessed of the first foul brood law in the world. Having impressed the Government with the importance of the matter, and moved it to action, he was able to supplement his initiatory efforts by saying he had the Man for the task. Much depended upon the man who was to be appointed an inspector. He was to be a man who knew and understood the disease, and could show others how to treat it. Wm. McEvoy was the



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