

Other enemies.—Amongst other enemies of the bee may be mentioned wasps, toads and certain birds. These do no serious harm to strong colonies. Mice and rats, however, will sometimes destroy colonies in winter if care is not taken to exclude them from the bee cellar or wintering case. Colonies wintered outside may be protected by reducing the width of the entrance to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch so that mice are unable to get in.

BEEES AND FRUIT.

The value of bees as pollinators in orchards has already been referred to in the discussion upon the advantages of bee-keeping.

Complaints are sometimes made of the poisoning of bees as the result of their visiting fruit bloom that has been sprayed with insecticides. Fruit trees should never be sprayed with poison while in full bloom. Not only may the poison kill the bees, but it also damages the reproductive organs of the flower, and in both ways it reduces the proportion of fruit that will set.

In the province of Ontario an Act passed in 1892 prohibits the spraying of fruit trees while in full bloom with any mixture containing Paris green or other poisons injurious to bees under penalty of fine or imprisonment. A similar law is now in force in the province of Quebec.

Bees may, at times, be seen feeding on ripe plums and other sweet fruit, and this has led some fruit growers to fear that they may damage fruit. Experiments conducted at the apiary of the Central Experimental Farm in 1901, and elsewhere, have shown conclusively that bees do not injure sound fruit. It is only when the skin has been broken by birds or wasps or in some other way that the bees suck the fruit juices.

BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Bee-keepers, like the members of any calling, are greatly helped by getting into touch with one another for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of problems relating to their welfare.

Bee-keepers' Associations have sprung up in various parts of Canada, and, from the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, which is one of the most progressive and successful bee-keepers' organizations in the world, to the young societies that have only recently been established, all are doing good work for the advancement of the industry. Many of the bee-keepers' associations are fortunate in having for their secretaries men who are serving the government in the interests of bee-keeping and are in charge of, or engaged upon, the work of the control of foul brood.

In most of the associations the annual membership fee is one dollar, and the benefits usually include the supplying of a monthly bee journal.

The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was organized in 1880. This association had in November, 1915, 1,130 members. Each member receives monthly a copy of "The Canadian Horticulturist and Bee-keeper." He also gets a timely report of the honey crop with the prices it is suggested should be asked. A three-day annual convention of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association is held in Toronto in November where ideas are exchanged and matters pertaining to the success of the bee-keeping industry in Ontario are fully discussed. This convention is very well attended, and it is looked forward to as one of the principal events of the year by many members. The members of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association have also the privilege of securing Italian queens at co-operative prices. There are various other benefits of membership. Mr. Morley Pettit, Provincial Apiarist, Apiculture Department, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, is the secretary-treasurer. There are twenty-six county associations affiliated with the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association.