

Bee Culture.

BY MR. J. J. GUNN, OF GONOR, MAN.

Mr. President, when you paid me the compliment, sir, of asking me to read a paper to-night, on the subject of bee culture, my first impulse was to decline the honor. It seemed too extremely absurd that one whose whole knowledge of the subject was derived from twelve years experience with a small number of colonies should presume to discuss it before an audience in which might be men who had grown old in the business. But when I reflected that no one had as yet grown very old as a Manitoba bee-keeper; and that, as our interest centered about the possibilities of the business in this province, the experience of twelve years here might be worth more to members of this society than that of a lifetime elsewhere, I concluded that there was most likely some method in your seeming madness after all, and so decided to make an effort to meet your wish.

It occurs to me, too, that perhaps the man most in need of a few friendly pointers is he who comes to this province with a hat-full of knowledge and methods that might, and perhaps did ensure him success in Ontario. More than one such, after costly failures, regret not having thrown that hat, and most of what it contained, into the fence corner, and studied local conditions.

The summer management of bees will be about the same here as elsewhere, and in that regard the experience of such men will always be valuable, and by amateurs like myself anxiously sought after.

It is the wintering problem that brings us up against conditions peculiarly our own, and on this problem some few of us have been working for a number of years now, each in

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