

under our new relations, for Cuba is surely a honey country. I, myself, took, in 90 days, from an even 100 colonies, over 2,000 gallons of the finest honey I have ever seen. But where is that 100 colonies now? And still another 150 that I used to have in Cuba? All dead. Yes, dead. Doctored to death with foul brood cures—cures that would not cure in Cuba. But I will try it again. I will embark for Cuba in September, as big apiaries under sheds are fascinating to me—until contaminated with Cuba's contagious "difficulty," foul brood, or "bacillus alvei," as Prof. Cheshire, England's great scientist, called it.

As to Porto Rico, I have not been there yet, but my friends who have, say it is no such a honey country as Cuba; but, of course, it may be better; I do not know.

"The effect of our new relations with these islands on our honey market"—they will have but little, if any, effect for years to come, and if they do it will be to create a market for fine honey, in many places where none is produced, and but little consumed at present, as is the case in many parts of the South, where the quality of honey is bad, and the crop uncertain, and consumption amounts to nothing. In such places thousands of tons of Cuba's fine honey could find a market. But for European buyers, it is not likely that much honey will come into our American markets from Cuba, as her market is already established in Europe, and has been for more than a century.

The above paper was then discussed as follows:

Mr. Selser—I notice that the people who talk about the market do so to mock us.

Harry S. Howe—I am going to be down there soon and shall learn what there is to learn.

S. A. Niver—I, too, want to take issue with Mr. Selser. I have had little experience, and I have compared the honey-dew with good honey. Come to York State and see how we do things there.

Dr. Miller—Mr. Selser is nowhere when New York gets after him.

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### Bee-Keeping as a Profession.

The next paper was read by Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, of Michigan.

The time was when many industries were represented in one family. Flax and wool were grown, spun and worked up into cloth and made into clothing. Cows were kept, and cheese as well as

butter made for home use. Poultry and a few colonies of bees added to the comforts of the household. But there is no need of going into detail; every one knows how people lived 100 years ago. Cheap and rapid transportation has encouraged the invention of machinery, the building of factories, and the classification of labor. This has brought about a specialty. No one disputes that this condition of things is better; by it our comforts are more than trebled.

Some industries branched out as specialties much sooner than others. Bee-keeping was among the later ones. At last, however, it has been recognized as an industry of itself. How does it compare with other professions? What are its advantages and disadvantages? Can it be depended upon as a means of livelihood? These are questions that have come to all of us, and will continue to come to all who enter our ranks.

I believe it is well understood that bee-keeping is not an occupation in which we can easily become wealthy. In the very nature of things it cannot be otherwise. Like the keeping of poultry, the raising of small fruits, gardening, and other minor branches of agriculture, the keeping of bees in localities adapted to the business can be depended upon to furnish their owner a comfortable living; but such fortunes as are amassed in merchandising and manufacturing can never be hoped for by the bee-keeper.

Fortunately, however, the perfection of a man's happiness bears but little relation to the size of his fortune. Many a man with the hum of bees over his head, finds happiness sweeter and deeper than ever comes to the merchant prince with his cares and his thousands. Bee-keeping is an ennobling pursuit. It keeps a man close to Nature's heart. It brings out the best that is in him. But can it be depended upon, year after year, as a means of supporting one's family? In some localities it can; in others it cannot. Where there is only one source of honey and that an unreliable one, a man learns sooner or later, that he cannot depend upon bees alone.

If a man is to adopt bee-keeping as a profession he must choose a location possessing at least one unfailing source of honey, or else several sources, some of or more of which will be quite likely to furnish a crop.

Many who attempt bee-keeping as a specialty, are lacking in business method. They attempt too many make-shifts in the