

Let us state the truth, that bee-keeping is an occupation full of problems, which multiply to our view as we gain experience and rise in it.

The occupation we know nothing of is the one which appears simple and easy to understand. Let us take home the wholesome lesson in spiritual, as well as temporal life, imparted when man fell: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." To produce good, evils must be resisted and difficulties overcome. We can easily recognize this class who do not know the conditions under which bees can be wintered with reasonable safety. There is, however, under this head another class, perhaps not so numerous, but more dangerous, who can do an immeasurable amount of harm in influencing the less-experienced and less-thoughtful bee-keeper. I refer to the blind leaders of the blind. It is a well-known joke among veterans that when a bee-keeper has a little experience he knows more than he ever will again; he can tell you all about it; this he realizes he never can at a later stage of the game. I am fairly familiar with the various branches of agriculture, having been brought up on a farm, worked on a farm, taken a course at the Ontario Agricultural College, and kept in touch with the developments of modern agriculture since. Seeing from that standpoint, it seems to me that no class of agriculture is handicapped as bee-keeping is with such inefficient instructors and experiments in one way and another. Anything and any one is good enough to take the bee department, when in other lines it would not be offered or tolerated. These agencies, be they Government or private, by their action endorse the thought that it requires no training to keep bees, and these agencies help to swell the ranks of those who increase the percentage of winter loss, and who are a menace and a detriment to the agriculture of a country.

Our world's Governments, if we except some countries in Europe, our public institutions, our press, in the development of our various branches of agriculture remind me largely of the unjust father who had a large family to provide for, and found it impossible to give every child a first-class education and position, so he sent some to school, college and university; they became noted men. Others, however, instead of educating them at school and university, were set breaking stones on the road. The children became marked contrasts; the former in time looked down with scorn upon the latter; the stone-breaker, as the eminent man's carriage went by, justly despised and perhaps envied his rich brother because he had been elevated by having given to him what was justly the stone-breaker's share, and the head of the family was judged for his partial action and condemned by every just and thoughtful person. Some branches of agriculture are rolling by in their carriage, whilst apiculture and apicultural markets are still in the stone-breaking stage.

Then we see those who know how to prepare their bees, but are too busy, too careless and too indifferent to put that knowledge into practice. We know of many who undertake too much, who have too many irons in the fire; the return they get for the capital invested is a loss, a reputation for lack of thoroughness, to say nothing of added worry and annoyance. The person who is constitutionally a little behind should never keep bees. The "too many irons in the fire" man never reaches the degree of success where success gives him a stimulus and pleasure of which the ordinary man knows nothing. We are in the days of the specialist; no man is competent to lead in a variety of agricultural subjects. My last deduction is that last winter's experience and