

THE FOUL BROOD INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

In accordance with the request of Mr. McEvoy, the O.B.A.'s Foul Brood Inspector, we publish his report, prepared for the Walkerton Convention, *verb. et lit.* Mr. McEvoy seems to think we have done him injustice by making a precis of it. If so, it has been done quite unintentionally. The report is as follows:—

I, WILLIAM McEVoy, Foul Brood Inspector, do solemnly declare that on the 11th of May I began my official work, and finished up on the 14th of November. The orders came in very early, and I rushed things as fast as I could, and kept pretty well up with the work considering the amount I had to do and its being scattered so widely over the province. I inspected one hundred and eighty-four apiaries during the past season. These apiaries that I examined were in the counties of Essex, Kent, Haldimand, Westworth, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington, Halton, York, Hastings and Lanark, and in the cities of Hamilton, Guelph, Stratford and London.

After a careful consideration I believe that there must have been not less than one thousand cases of foul brood. I took the greatest of pains every where to explain everything very thoroughly to the owners how to cure their foul brood apiaries, and at the same time warning them that I had to burn what they failed to cure. I then expected the owners to cure their foul apiaries by my methods of curing foul brood which I believe will be followed by the bee men of every land in the near future. When I was appointed Inspector I fully expected to get every foul brood colony cured and not to have to burn one hive of bees, as it was to the interest of every bee keeper to cure and make all he could out of his bees. And I knew that if the owners did not misunderstand me, and did exactly as I told them, that they would soon cure their colonies no matter how badly they were diseased. But, oh, such a time as I had to get the colonies cured of a plague by all sorts of men was a much larger job than I ever expected. Very often I had to tack round a good deal and get the best bee keepers to go and help their neighbors or they never would have got their colonies cured of foul brood. In one locality I found an apiary of fifteen colonies badly diseased with foul brood and the combs built every way so they could not be moved, and owned by a very old lady. In such a case as that, with every thing out of order, I did not expect

an old lady of her time of life to make a cure and as that apiary was near some fine bee yards something had to be done; but to burn up fifteen colonies of bees for an old lady that could not cure was something I did not like to do, so I had again to tack around. I got a good bee keeper to buy up her colonies and cure them. The most of the beekeepers in every locality were very anxious to get rid of the disease, and many of them would down the plague in a short time, while a few others just as anxious to cure would make some of the greatest mistakes that it was ever possible to make and still have the disease in their apiaries. In some localities I went back and found where they were making the mistakes and set them right, and explained how to finish up the curing another way. I also wrote long letters to others that had almost cured, how to cure when the honey season closed suddenly, and how to prepare for and cure foul brood colonies at once in the fall, and I am very much pleased to say that these men succeeded in curing after all. Some men that had only a few colonies of bees, and these bad with foul brood, were the very hardest to get to do anything, because they had very little at stake, and if I burned their few diseased colonies their loss would be very little, while it would be a very serious thing for the owners of fine large apiaries if these few diseased colonies were not cured or burned before the bees from the large sound apiaries robbed them. Mr. Wm. Coventry of Woodstock had a large and very fine apiary which cost him a good deal of money. One of Mr. Coventry's neighbors bought a few colonies of bees that had foul brood and brought them near his in Woodstock. The few foul brood colonies soon died. Then Mr. Coventry's bees robbed them and got foul brood. Mr. Coventry was very busy and had a dread of the disease spreading through the whole apiary. He then thought it best to stamp the plague out at once by fire. So he went to work the past summer and burned up twenty-two colonies of bees that had foul brood. I was sorry to hear that, because these colonies could have been cured. In the most localities that I have been in the bee keepers that had foul brood in their apiaries complained bitterly of some neighbors having foul brood colonies that their bees robbed and then got the disease. The feeling in some places ran high on account of heavy losses from the disease. I am now pleased to say that things have settled down very nicely, and that the bee yards that were once so foul are now in fine condition. I burned one colony in Woodstock, seven in Stratford and three in the county of York between Newmarket and Aurora.