

I had quite an experience some years ago, and that experience has confirmed me in the statement made by Prof. Cook and many others that bees will not destroy fruit unless it is first broken by some other insect or become unfit for use by over-ripeness. I had 150 colonies of bees sitting in one corner of an oblong field of about an acre and three-quarters, and not more than five or ten rods away I had a strip of Schaeffer raspberries. They are very soft and unfit for shipping. They became ripier than we could pick without crushing, and they ripened so fast that we could not pick them as they ripened. I had somewhere about a thousand plants. Then honey ceased coming in and bees went on those raspberries, but I failed to find them on a berry that had not ripened so much that the juices were between the seed containing parts. Berries from which the dew or a little rain or mist start the juices flowing the bees would go on. When once the skin that envelopes the bulb that contains the seed becomes broken the bee will suck up everything that is in it. I handled fruit some time ago and I used to bring home more or less of the damaged fruit, and I have seen bees on damaged fruit so thick that you could not tell what kind of fruit they were on, and peaches the same, and yet, until the skin of the fruit was broken the bees would never interfere with it.

Mr. McEvoy: You will find that a real practical fruit grower picks his berries up close so that they will be in good order for shipment. You will never hear any complaint from that man about the bees.

Mr. Darling: We have no fruit growers in our section.

Mr. McEvoy: I have four acres of strawberries and I have had no trouble of that kind because I keep my berries picked and fit for shipping.

These fellows who leave the berries until they are wasting must not blame the bees.

Mr. Couse: Speaking along the line of bees being a nuisance, I think people are becoming educated to the fact that bees are a benefit. I know at the present time I have two applications to take my bees to people's places. One man in particular says the nearer he is to my bees the better clover seed he gets. I know one person who goes in extensively for raising Alsike clover seed. A few years ago he was afraid there were not enough bees to visit his clover in the fields in the vicinity where our friend Pirie has his apiary. He said "I cut my clover before it bloomed, so that his (Pirie's) bees could visit my clover when every other person's has passed blooming." This man wants me to bring the bees to his field.

I think we can go along this line and educate people. It is ignorance to a great extent and ugliness; they are a bad thing together. If you can educate a man to the fact that he is being benefited you don't have very much trouble on this line.

Mr. Gemmell: Are we not getting away from the point? Do you think it would be advisable for the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association to organize an Association for the protection of the bee-keepers of Ontario or do you think it is just as well to let the matter stand the way it is and let every man join the International Bee-Keepers' Union?

Mr. McEvoy: Yes, gentlemen, most emphatically.

Mr. Evans: I think it would be unadvisable to establish any other Union. We already have difficulty in getting members to join the present Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association. I think the institution on the other side is ample for all our needs. I quite agree with the President that