

FARMERS KEEPING BEES.

While, for various reasons, it would not be profitable for every farmer to keep bees on his farm, there are, nevertheless, many cases in which a few hives could be kept to advantage where none are kept at present. There is often a small local demand for honey that will not be supplied at all unless by someone at home, for honey is one of those things which most people like, but will not use unless it is convenient to obtain. But the farmer should not undertake to keep many bees. He should make it a side line—a very side line—unless there be someone in his household who has a particular liking for bees, and prefers working with them to doing anything else; who likes them to such an extent that he will spend all his spare time watching them and studying their habits. This does not mean that a person who is too lazy to do anything else will make a successful beekeeper, but that anyone, to make a success of bees on any kind of a large scale, must have a special liking for the work—wherein beekeeping is like most other occupations. Where there is no such person the apiary should be limited to a dozen colonies or so, as that is about as many as can be handled to the best advantage by a man whose time is taken up with his farm work. While the natural home of the bee is in the country, the science of apiculture is so entirely different from that of agriculture that the two cannot be followed to any great extent conjointly without one or both suffering from neglect more or less—usually more.

For the farmer who has never kept bees, but is thinking of getting a few next summer, some words of general instruction may not be out of place at this season. I say "a few" for no person, without experience, should attempt to handle more than a colony or two the first season. If he does—well, he will find out before he is through, for the inside of a beehive, to a person who is not familiar with the natural history habits and requirements of its occupants, is a risky thing to play with, and a little careless or ignorant bungling in handling it will go a long way towards spoiling the chances for a honey crop. So first of all, start small. Also, in selecting a hive for your bees, get a good one. It costs very little more to put up the bees in a good, movable frame hive than in a cheap affair, and bees in standard hives are worth, any time, fifty per cent more if you want to sell them than are those in odd-sized or box hives. And get a book on the subject of bees and beekeeping. Get it now, and read it up before spring. It will only cost a dollar or two, and will pay for itself over and over again, even if you only have two colonies of bees; and you can't run them properly without it.

E. G. H.

WINNIPEG AHEAD.

Interesting Production There of Gaul's "The Ten Virgins."

A Toronto Exchange just to hand contains the following interesting item with reference to a recent musical performance in Winnipeg.

It may be doubted whether any ordinary choir in Toronto could attain the absolute balance, in numbers at least, of the chorus which recently gave Gaul's "The Ten Virgins" at St. Augustine's Church, Winnipeg. A glance at the programme of the performance shows that there were thirteen sopranos, nine altos, twelve tenors and thirteen basses. Many a choirmaster in Toronto would sing a private Te Deum if he could secure twelve tenors, but the climate seems to be against their development. From all that can be learned "The Ten Virgins" has never been given in Toronto, and therefore Winnipeg may hold her head high, for a time at least, particularly as to the ambitious character of the production. Prominent soloists were engaged, the eminent tenor Mr. Glenn Hall, of New York, being the importation, and the press notices of the concert were most complimentary. Mr. Hall is regarded as one of the foremost concert tenors of the United States. He is noted for his artistic taste and his real musical knowledge, and his opinion on all subjects relating to music is worthy of acceptance. Here follows a letter sent by him to the Winnipeg branch of the firm of Gourlay, Winter &

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Dr. McLaughlin:

Chance Harbor, St. John Co., N.B., November 24th, 1905.

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