

to every frame, I found the bees had built their combs across the frames instead of in them, they having no starters or comb guides. However I took the hive to pieces and transferred the combs into the frames, filled up the hive with full sheets of foundation, fed them up in October and they wintered well packed in chaff. The following spring we purchased one colony from Mr. Jones, and then decided the Jones' deep frame hive must be the right one, so made a lot of Palace hives after Mr. Jones' pattern, but that did not fill the bill very long, so, like most other beginners, we devised another hive to take the combination frame and that was

one of her letters at the time she said, "I have borrowed every crock in the neighborhood to put honey in." That season decided that we would make a specialty of bee-keeping, and I came home to keep our little farm till the bees increased enough.

That time came before we had many bees: for two years in succession we had a failure in most of the farm crops from drouth, and to cap the climax a bush fire swept over that part of the country and it consumed the result of our labor of years. I can sympathize with those in the fire-swept region this year. We then moved to Bracebridge for five years, where I ob-



HOME OF R. H. SMITH, ST. THOMAS, ONT.

the best we had tried. After blundering along with varying success I took a trip to the North-west with part of a car load of stock for my brother and among other effects, a colony of bees. The long confinement and journey (15 days) reduced them in numbers but they built up and filled a crate of sections. That I exhibited at the first agricultural fair held at Indian head, Assinaboia, to the great surprise of many. During my absence my wife looked after the farm and bees, they increased from eight to twenty colonies and she extracted about 900 pounds of honey. In

tained employment as assessor, etc., that did not interfere with my work with the bees.

In the summer of 1893 I paid a visit to Mr. J. A. paugh at St. Thomas, who was wanting to sell out his apiary and home. We decided to take it only to meet with a severe reverse the first two years in the failure of the honey crop. But last season and the present we had fair crops of honey.

The picture of our home does not show much of the apiary of 110 colonies which is located partly in the rear and under the