

form. Looking at bee-keeping as a whole, I see in many of the articles which are written for bee and agricultural papers in general, in the items in the general press, even in the addresses at conventions, and in the discussions which take place, a great many statements as to what the exponent does, or informing others what they should do, but painfully little as to how he should act under given conditions, and showing why it should be done in that way. There are laws in physics, in chemistry, in nature, which can be explained and made intelligible to even a simple-minded individual. Without the above, in connection with instruction, there can be no intelligent action and no solid, intelligent progress.

Conditions studied are of prime importance and the foundation of successful action, and such a course would lead to greater harmony in our discussions, greater intelligence and greater progress in the bee-keeping industry, and vastly benefit us individually and collectively.

To learn to think truly, and not merely imitate or ape, would not only lessen the percent of winter loss, but would revolutionize many of our lives for time—yes, for eternity.

May we from last winter's experience come to the conclusion that Canada is not suited to this, the aesthetic branch of agriculture, or may we even say that it is not a safe branch of agriculture in Canada? Far be the thought from us! As to quality, wherever shown the quality of Canadian honey has proved itself to be unsurpassed. Judges, not Canadian, even foreigners, have again and again pronounced in favor of our honey. British experts, honest men, who have a love for a fostering interest in the development of bee-keeping in their own land, have told me and others that our Canadian honey leaves nothing to be desired. As far as winter is concerned, we have among us

those who winter bees with as great certainty and success as the shepherd and the herdsman winters his flocks and herds. In this respect, what one can do another may. Shall we then say that the past winter was a winter in which bees could not be wintered with success. We must admit it was the most disastrous for many years. To my recollection we have had none like it for 23 years, but both in repositories and outside bees were during the times under discussion wintered with success. Such a line of argument must then fall to the ground.

Shall we then say that a great many do not know the conditions under which bees can be wintered with reasonable safety? If we can judge from what we see and hear, we may surely make this assertion with safety. There are many who do not know, who cannot know, the conditions under which bees can with reasonable safety be wintered. They have begun bee-keeping through the acquisition of a stray swarm, or the microbe of bee fever, which has taken root in their mind through the success of one who has devoted his time to the work. They see the returns, but not the labor. No literature upon the subject is sought; they have no proverbial "long-felt want" (or short either) for knowledge. An old hive is bought, perhaps, with foul brood germs. This neglected hive may be a breeding place for this disease and the moth. During their short career as bee-keepers, if product they have, it is oftener than not taken in such a shape that when sold it depresses the market. They sell at a sacrifice. This class of bee-keepers is a menace to apicultural society, and cannot be too strongly discouraged. With the beginner who sees in it a business, and desires to engage in it in a business-like way, we are individuals, and especially as an association having a Government grant, entrusted with public money, should have every sympathy.