

SOME DON'T'S OF BEE-KEEPING

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(Read at Brant District Convention)

DON'T fail to put your very best energies to the front if you ever expect to be a kee-keeper worthy of the pursuit.

DON'T put off too late preparing your bees for winter, for that is where the greater number of the failures come in.

DON'T expect your bees to winter well if they are not well supplied with good stores early in the fall; and that is not all, for you must have them well packed on their summer stands early. Then the bees and Nature will see to the rest until the apple trees begin to bloom the following spring.

DON'T fail during your leisure in the winter season to visit some large bee-keeper, and take mental notes of anything you think worthy of adding to your own system of management. You might also note whether he practices what he preaches.

DON'T close your eyes and lie dormant all winter because your bees are well cared for, thinking that is all. Keep your thinking up on, for there is something yet to do to solve problems for the future.

DON'T think for a minute because you have succeeded handling a few hundred colonies one season that you are capable of handling 100 to 1000 by your system all alone, for you may throw up your hands too soon. The next season you may find yourself devising some means of cleaning up combs at bees have mostly all died on, and then you will have to start over again—probably with some other system; and then what?

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DON'T try to copy all that you see in the bee journals, for you will wake up sometime to find yourself wrapped up in a sack to keep the heat all in, and defying the innocent little bees—but they will get there all the same. Better without either sack, vail, or mitts, but study the nature of your bees. This is not all, for you will find lots of other things that you cannot see how it is that the other bee-keepers get along so well with. You may have the small hive with thumb-screws or springs and self-spacing frames; the ordinary shallow hive with ordinary frames; the medium hive with divisions between every comb to keep the bees from swarming; and last, but not least, the large hive with portico and a door in the back to look for queen cells. All these appliances are all right in the bee-keepers' hands who have them.

DON'T try to follow all of them, but try to work out a system of your own, even if it takes you a while to do it.

DON'T try to get along without the C.B.J. or Gleanings, for in either of them you will get a great deal of information and valuable hints that you may add to your system.

DON'T try to follow all the instructions that the journalists give you, or you may be heating up some of your customers too warm to melt the wax in their stomachs, and they may complain that comb honey is not healthy; or you may find yourself hunting over the dry goods stores getting dry goods boxes to make hives with, and laths for frames, and