

factory of confectionery, vinegar and medicines. The increased consumption of honey for all these and other reasons should be encouraged. If the farmer did but know it he has a better opportunity to gather his sweets from his land, than he once had when maple trees were abundant in his forests.

Apiiculture, like every kind of industry pertaining to the farm, is the subject of considerable literature. There are a half dozen, or more, periodicals published in this country and Canada that are devoted exclusively to the interest of apiarists; and there are numerous books published also, by men who have spent the best part of their lives in researches and experiments upon the bee and the production of honey. These books give detailed information on every branch of the subject. No one can afford to enter any calling without thoroughly informing himself in relation to it. To those intending to embark in apiculture I can give no better advice than that they subscribe for at least one of the periodicals devoted to bee-keeping, and purchase one of the several exhaustive works on the subject. Buffalo, N. Y.

The Apiary of R. H. Smith,
St. Thomas.

Our Beekeeping experience dates from the spring of 1880 with the purchase of one colony of bees in the Thomas hive, and not a strong colony at that, but it did not matter much for we had read that bees increased very fast so we had dreams of lots of bees and honey, and we would be well pleased if we only had all we could use of Nature's purest sweet. Well do I remember going to Bracebridge eleven miles to bring home the bees, (for we lived in Muskoka at that time). As we had only an ox team my brother and I decided the only way to insure their safe carriage over the rough roads was to carry them. After closing them in carefully and tying a light bar on each side of the hive for handles, we started about sundown and arrived home during the night. Next morning we were curious to see the inside of the hive; not having heard of such a thing as a smoker I made a smudge in an old pail and my wife was

to blow in smoke while I pried off the honey board. I don't think that board had been taken off before, but I got it loose with a snap, and some bees came out, the smoker could not be got to go where we wanted it, so the bees began to get in our hair and sting. I tried blowing in smoke but more seemed to go down my throat than into the hive and by this time the bees were getting the best of it. When I found how tightly the frames were glued into the slots we decided we had seen all we wanted to at that time.

The next thing was to prepare hives for the increase; as we did not like the Thomas hive I made one from a description given in the Montreal Witness by an Ontario bee-keeper, a two-story affair, but



R. H. SMITH, ST. THOMAS.

the two stories were not divisible, so that to get at the lower story one had to dip down through the upper one; both were to be surrounded by four inches of chaff, a clumsy contrivance that was no improvement on the Thomas hive.

About this time Mr. D. A. Jones created a great stir in the beekeeping world, and made a great exhibit in Toronto. I went down to the exhibition and learned several things about handling bees and after buying a smoker and some comb foundation, I went home determined to see the inside of our only swarm. After taking off the honey board which was glued fast