

it bird's-eye maple, which is becoming so valuable for furniture. The water surrounding the island keeps off early frosts. I saw Northern Spy apples grown on the island. About ten years ago there was not a farmer on the island; to-day there are some four hundred families. Quite a few have gone there with nothing, and now have comfortable homes. I have been in the Northwest, and would prefer the island to that country. This northern country cannot be beat for dairying, sheep, stock-raising; pasture and water are abundant. When it comes to bee-keeping, with clover knee deep even in the woods, and the abundance of blossoms, I believe it cannot be beat in any part of the Province, and were I a young man looking for an opening in life, I would go into that country, engaging largely in bee-keeping. Many an Ontario farmer, paying a rent per annum equal to what land could be bought for there, would do well to move there. I know of several very desirable locations that could be secured there. The Bruce mines re-opening and the large number of boats plying up and down the lakes, should furnish a splendid market for every good article produced. As to climate, it is enjoyable winter and summer, and for health, leaves nothing to be desired. I drove some 1,200 miles, and enjoyed every bit of it.

caring for bees that are not easily eradicated, though disinclination and dread of much care and tedious work have wrought a mighty change.

If the reader will take the time to investigate, he will find that nearly all of



MR. JAS. SHAVER, Catsville,
President Brant Bee-Keepers' Association.

The Old and the New.

—G. W. DEMAREE.

The purpose of this article is to inquire into the methods of manipulating bees in the past, and at the present time. Let it be understood that, in contrasting the present management of bees with the past, I have reference to MODERN BEE CULTURE. I accept it as a fact that MODERN BEE CULTURE, as an improved system of keeping bees, is a new creation as it were, so radically different from the old, old mole and bat system of the decades of the past, that the new system itself has its "old" and its "new history."

The writer of this article handled bees under the ancient "luck" system, and did not, by any means, jump into the new, but slowly and cautiously worked his way into the then new field of knowledge of the natural history and habits of bees. And he then formed conclusions concerning the most profitable methods of

the ablest writers of twenty years ago insisted that all the colonies in the apiary should be treated as individuals, that every colony in the yard should be inspected as often as any causes would have time to effect materially its prosperity.

This plan of caring for the apiary was strictly followed by the writer for perhaps ten years, and during this decade of years my loss of colonies did not exceed two per cent of loss from all causes. The winters and honey seasons were uncertain then, much as they are now.

It will be remembered that in process of time some writers began to question, and even condemn the plan of examining bees "too often," and the "let alone" system has become popular. In my experience the result is, our apiaries have become uneven in strength, where strength is needed to reap our short honey harvests, and our profits have dwindled. I insist that no apiary, in the very nature of things, can be handled in the aggregation with systematic certainty. The apiary