

Now let us turn to consider the opportunities which bee-keeping offers for a livelihood. Here new problems confront us, for this is necessarily bee-keeping on a large scale, which of course very materially increases the labor. While under very favorable conditions your bees might net you \$10 per colony, under ordinary conditions you might consider yourself fortunate if you had \$5 per colony clear, and often the profits will fall much below this; so it will be readily seen that the woman who depends on bees for a living would need to keep a considerable number of colonies if she would make money. Not only this but it takes time to get your apiary built up and to learn the business, and there are always some losses during the winter. Running say 100 colonies of bees means handling a good deal of honey and honey is heavy; it is no light task to lift supers of 50 and 60 and 70 lbs., though by using the half-depth supers the lifting may be lightened. But do what you will there still remains a goodly amount of heavy work. Turning the extractor hour after hour is no light task. A gasoline engine will obviate this, but gasoline engines have a way of kicking most vigorously and are not always tractable for a woman to handle, as we have found out a good many times. Taking all the heavy work into consideration, it would really seem that a woman should be fairly strong to undertake bee-keeping though there is one little woman at Onandaga who is accomplishing wonders. Indeed in spite of the labor involved in bee-keeping there is nothing about it which a woman cannot do if she only has the will to do it.

For the woman who is able to live at home, bee-keeping does offer an attractive means of livelihood, especially attractive for sisters, for here the labor may be shared and the pleasure doubled; and at home in the country it is usually possible to secure a man's help when it is necessary without being dependent on the kindness of a neighbor or on hired help, which is not usually very satisfactory for a woman. But living at home has its drawbacks from the standpoint of successful bee-keeping. A home has a way of making insistent demands on a woman and though she may make the better woman for this she will scarcely make the better bee-keeper. The woman who deliberately chooses to go out into the country and keep bees should be endowed with a most intense love of the out-of-doors, else the reward would scarcely be commensurate with the sacrifice. The country is no place for women to live alone; it is not so bad in the summer but in the winter it is impossible. Of course it is not necessary to stay with the bees in the winter, but shifting about isn't usually very satisfactory for a woman; doesn't agree with her homing insects, and then there are always a good many preparations to be made between seasons. My advice to the woman who has ability enough to keep bees successfully is to find some other vocation where the common wealth of conveniences is greater and take her vacations in the country, with some reliable beekeepers if she would learn something about bees; or if she must have bees of her own find some congenial man to go into partnership with. But in this case she will probably have so many new and absorbing interests that she will have but little time to give to the bees, though indeed a good many of our most successful beekeepers owe a large share of their success to the help they receive from their "better halves."

In conclusion, the opportunities for bee-keeping are at present unlimited. Nevertheless the bee-keeper's instinct is too strong in one to permit one to advise any indiscriminate rushing into the business, not because we fear over-production, we know that the honey market is yet in its infancy, and increased knowledge of bees means increased consumption. What we do fear is disease. Bees are subject to one or two very fatal and infectious diseases, and as the infection is carried in the honey it can readily be seen how easily disease may be carried from one yard to another. A little infected honey exposed carelessly and your neighbor's bees find it and carry the disease home. Or your diseased bees die, leaving some

honey in the hive. The hive is not removed and bees from other yards find the honey, and thus the disease is scattered far and near. You can go into the chicken business and all your flock die from disease and your neighbors are not harmed. With bees it is different and unless you are prepared to care for your bees intelligently you have no right to go into the business and jeopardize your neighbor's bees on which he may be depending for a living.

As a means of recreation there is nothing more fascinating than the study of the bee. Its life history is more interesting than any novel, and nothing could be more restful for tired nerves than a summer spent among them, nor is there any more delightful book to read than Maeterlinck's "Life of the Bee." As an industry for women to especially develop, the time does not seem to be ripe, though in this as in almost every other agricultural pursuit her interest and help will count incalculably.

What the Women Said and Did in London.

I am going to try to tell you what the women said and did in London, but you must not expect me to mention the name of each woman who said anything. For one reason I could not catch more than half of the names of either persons or places, and more than once I wished that the place were in possession of a little megaphone through which each speaker could call her name and district, and, indeed, sometimes her message itself. However, the megaphone was minus, so we'll have to do the best we can.

To begin with, lest outsiders be bewildered, of course, I am speaking of the Women's Institute Convention, held at London, Nov. 8th and 9th.

And before going further it may be opportune to say it was a success, a great success. In fact it was remarked by more than one or two that this was the most enthusiastic assembly of the Institute yet held in London.

Mrs. Stock, of Tavistock, presided at the first meeting, which was opened by prayer by the Rev. D. C. MacGregor, of St. Andrew's Church.

Mrs. Stock, in her preliminary address, dwelt upon the fact that the delegates had come to help one another by the exchange of experiences. The women of the Institute had made a noble response to the call of the war, she said, but she looked far past the time for that need. When the war is over the women will not fold their hands. It will remain for them to mould those that follow into good Canadian citizens; we will need them all. The duty of efficiency in all things will stand waiting, and, especially, efficiency in caring for the children, and managing the homes.

Mrs. Boomer, in bringing greetings from the National Council and other women's organizations of the city, embraced the opportunity to thank those who had assisted her in collecting money for the Belgians, describing herself as a "red pillar box at the corner for taking money—and passing it on." The war calls for all our resources. The British Empire itself is depending greatly on the women, many of whom have to take the place of breadwinners. Mr. Lloyd George, in speaking of the nobility of sacrifice, had told of a beautiful valley in North Wales which was yet so enervating that the boys were in the habit of climbing the mountains to get the stimulating breezes. We, too, have been living in a sheltered valley—perhaps too selfishly, but we have been scourged by the war to the higher pinnacles of sacrifice.

Mrs. Boomer in closing quoted a prophetic vision told by George Fox: "I saw an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of love and light rolled over it, and in that light I saw the love of God." We are in a crucible, but it has many lessons to teach us which will be of use when the time of reconstruction comes.

Mrs. Wilson, of Wardsville, replied to the address of welcome, referring also to the great work of the women, but pointing out that they must keep the spirit of the great empire-builder, Cecil Rhodes, who on his death-bed said, "So much to do, so little done!" We must redouble our efforts for the boys in the trenches, even when it pinches us to do so. A great philanthropist, near the close of his life was asked what he would add to it, could he live his life over. He said, "I would wish to be kinder." We might make this our key-note.

The Superintendent's Report.

Mr. Putnam's report told of the magnificent patriotic work the women of the Institute have been doing during the year, and of the expressions of gratefulness sent, over and over again from soldiers in the trenches. The attention of the whole province, too, has been directed to the Institute because of the work, and many appeals for help have come, and not in vain, from various parts of the great machinery forging help for the men at the front.

But this is an age of GIVE. We must continue, both with money and toil. Each must do her utmost in the great strife for liberty for which the Allies are fighting. A few localities have not yet done their part, but it is hoped they will fall into line.

When our men come back, many of them will not want to go back to indoor life again, and many will go into the rural districts for the first time. When they do, a new responsibility will fall on the women, to so encourage the social and intellectual life there that these men will be contented.

For other reasons the rural districts must be developed in every way, and quickly. What is to become of our country if it continues to be drained of its best blood to swell the cities? Such a drain must bring about decrease of production, especially in such branches as live stock, which need man labor. Disaster must be courted if we go along on present lines. All these rural problems must be solved by women's and men's organizations in co-operation with one another.

Another problem, very acute at present, is that of the child. Boys just entering their teens are having to assume the responsibilities of men. It is "up to" the women to see that the boys and girls receive the training which will best fit them for every-day responsibilities on the farms and in the homes.

At the Ottawa Convention it had been told that boys were being given work in some of the branches. He was not sure that men would not be found soon in the Women's Institute (laughter).

To-day, city and country women are standing shoulder to shoulder in work for the nation, and because of this the city woman is finding out that the country woman has something for her, and the country woman is finding out that the city woman has something for her.

Mr. Putnam touched upon the advisability of baking and sewing classes and contests for girls, the garden contests, canning clubs and home nursing instruction. He also spoke of the Demonstration Lecture Courses, which any branch can secure; and of the work that is being done in medical inspection of schools. When the war is over the Demonstration Lecture Courses will be enlarged to include courses in the lighter forms of agriculture, poultry-raising, bee-keeping, vegetable growing, etc.

A question of especial interest to-day, is how to get foodstuffs more directly from the producer to the consumer. Apples, for instance, bought 20 miles from Toronto at \$2.00 per bbl. were sold in the city by the basket at a cost of \$6 to \$7.50 per bbl. There should be better management than this.

In closing Mr. Putnam congratulated the members on their improvement in business methods, and advised them that, by organization and representations to the Government, they can stand a chance of receiving many things needed for community development.

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From time to time during the Convention, reports from various districts were fitted in, and at this point Mrs. Coutts, of Thamesville, read reports from Elgin, Kent and Essex. As all of the reports, whatever the district, dwelt chiefly upon Red Cross work, only unusual plans for money-making, etc., will here be noted especially.

From these south-western counties box socials, concerts, etc., were reported. In one place, whose name I did not catch, a Dramatic Club had given an entertainment, and, as scenery was needed the women went to work and painted it themselves. A girl belonging to one branch had picked and sold apples to get money for the Red Cross, and in Thamesville the Girl Guides had given a concert.

Outside enterprises were the holding of school fairs and sending money to Chatham Shelter for children. In closing Mrs. Coutts said that the Women's Institute should

help with good every work in the community. If it did not it was not living up to its full opportunities.

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Before closing, the Mayor of London brought the city's greetings, also an invitation to the delegates to attend a meeting and tea to be given in the Normal School by the Women's Canadian Club, the city to furnish free cars for transportation.

Address by Dr. Backus.

At the Canadian Club, Dr. Annie Backus, of Aylmer, always a favorite speaker in the Women's Institute, gave an address on "The Open Door for Women." The first "door" noted was women's organizations. Not so very long ago to speak of a women's organization to a man was likely to call up in him visions of eye-scratching and hair pulling. To-day women's organizations are everywhere, yet she had not heard of a single hair pulled or eye lost. In the National Council of Canada to-day there are 150,000 women; in the Women's Institute in Ontario, 30,000 women, and in all Canada upwards of 100,000; the Daughters of the Empire number 30,000; and the Missionary Societies, the largest of all, 200,000. See, then, how old traditions break down! When the first steamship crossed the Atlantic its hold was filled with pamphlets which proved that such a voyage could not be taken. To-day it is known that the Missionary Society handles the most money, at the least cost, of any organization in the Dominion; thus have women demonstrated their ability for organization.

Looking at the audience she found it impossible to tell which were rural and which urban. One of the great things accomplished had been the bringing of city and country together. There are fewer differences between people than we imagine, fewer between women and men, city and country. What the women manufacture in the country the city women want at lowest cost; they want to cut out the middleman; and one thing it would be well for the organizations to take up would be how to bring the produce directly from producer to consumer. She had been considering, the other day, what to give a friend for a Christmas present, and had decided on a pound of butter and a dozen of eggs (laughter).

Many doors have been opened by the call to women to work for the war, in munitions factories and elsewhere. If it were not so tragic it would be absolutely ludicrous the way men are now screaming to women to work (laughter). They are telling us now that we can't do the things they always said we couldn't do.

In Ottawa recently Mr. Burrell said that the franchise is coming to women, and the Mayor said they would be sitting in Parliament. She rather thought she would make a jolly good Premier herself (laughter).

An Ottawa house for Red Cross purposes has been presented to the Women's Canadian Club by a rich man. Its rooms have been set apart to various uses, some even turned into operating-rooms where they "correct the socks without proper toes." But one special work is being done here. The lists of wounded come first to Ottawa. At once these women send each man a letter of sympathy and appreciation, asking him if there is anything they can do for him. If possible it is done, and right away. One soldier, for instance, wrote that he had left a farm in New Ontario and was afraid it would be forfeited because there was no one to look after it. The women secured his title and wrote him that everything was right as right could be.

The patriotic work that the women everywhere have done, cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, and it is likely that it will have to go on for two years more. We shall still have to send out our men and follow them with comforts. It means not only our freedom but that of the world.

Turning to the suffrage question, Dr. Backus said, "we have been told that we must not speak of the suffrage, so please shut your ears."—and of course all their ears pricked up a little more than usual. We expect the vote after this, said the speaker, so we must get ready for it.

As we are now we are not citizens nor are we classed as citizens. In New Brunswick a young woman qualified for the legal profession but could not be sworn in because she was only a female. It was told that an old woman in court pro-

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