

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Foul Brood.

THE INSPECTOR'S WORK.

THE readers of the C. B. J. will doubtless want to know what the Foul Brood Inspector has done since he commenced his official work in May last. Having received from him a pretty full report, both oral and written, I shall now submit to the C. B. J. a digest of the desired information.

At the outset I may say that for my own part I am well satisfied with the work done. I may say further that as the orders for the inspector's services rained in, and as his reports came to me from time to time I became astonished at the wide extent to which foul brood prevailed in this province. Any doubts that may have existed as to the necessity of legislative assistance in this matter ought surely by this time to be dissipated. In many localities yard after yard was found to be fairly rotten with the disease. Many had concealed the fact till the law unearthed them. Others were quite ignorant of the presence of the disease among their bees, attributing their inefficiency and general decline to other causes.

It would seem that the inspector had succeeded in discharging the difficult duties of his position efficiently, and with good judgment. Only in one or two cases would I feel disposed to take any exception in the course taken, so far as I know. And it is gratifying to find that he has been eminently successful in his treatment of the disease, as have those operating under his instructions. Another gratifying fact is that he has encountered but comparatively little opposition from the bee-keepers in his rounds among them to perform unpleasant duties. With a few exceptions they rendered willing acquiescence and gladly assisted him in his remedial measures. He did, however, run across a few "black sheep" in the bee-keeper's fold. In his own language they are "bad men," "scoundrels." They knowingly sell the disease and their innocent victims suffer the consequences without redress. But this will be stopped—must be stopped. Those wholesome penalties, "made and provided" by that Act of ours will be visited upon these unprincipled offenders perhaps sooner than they expect. We have the names of parties who knowingly sold diseased colonies before the passage of our Act, and of

others who have knowingly or unknowingly sold such since; and we warn all that in future the law will be applied to their cases as the evidence against them may warrant. When a man sells diseased bees, pleading ignorance of the fact when challenged, and at the same time refuses to wholly or partially make good the loss of his victims the case is *prima facie* against both his word and his honor. But these are only the exceptions to the great rule of right which is the guiding principle among the great majority of bee-keepers. At the inspector's suggestion I beg to name Messrs. Jas. Stewart of Menford and Mr. Birt of Simcoe as deserving the highest commendation for their efforts to prevent the spread of the disease and save their neighbors, involving much personal sacrifice and loss. The inspector reports that the former during the past four years has lost through foul brood over one thousand dollars, diligently striving meanwhile to rid himself of the plague—not, however, at the expense of his fellows, as he steadily refused to sell a colony so long as there was a taint of disease about his yard. The latter, he reports, voluntarily destroyed eight hundred dollars worth of bees the past spring to save himself and neighbors, which, the inspector says, might have been cured and the loss averted had Mr. Birt waited. The inspector also wishes me to mention in this connection Mr. Greutzner of New Dundee as an example worthy of imitation. These, of course, are but the exemplary representatives of a large majority class of Ontario bee-keepers, capable, honest and honorable. As to the obverse side of the picture which we have already painted—that minority few of "black sheep"—we withhold their names for the present, but warn them to sell no more foul brood and mend their ways generally as speedily as their constitutions and environments will admit.

Up to time of report, about Sep. 1st, the inspector had officially visited eighty-one apiaries in twelve counties and three cities, viz. the counties of Halton, Peel, Waterloo, Grey, Huron, Perth, Oxford, Norfolk, Lincoln, Wentworth, York and Prince Edward; and the cities of Stratford, Hamilton and Toronto. In these 81 apiaries he examined about six hundred colonies and found foul brood in about three hundred and fifty of them. In some apiaries "every colony was rotten with the disease," the inspector reports. He further says, "In some apiaries where I found foul brood I only examined part of the apiaries, enough to show the owners and tell them how to cure it and then rushed on to other places, so that there were