

that experience under the eye of an experienced bee-keeper. But who would say in a good locality if an apiary is managed according to the most successful methods of the present day it would not pay? I think none. The question is not has A.B.C., &c., made or lost money, but how can it be made to yield a profit. Money invested in the hands of the careless procrastinating, reckless and thoughtless, be it only in that particular line of business, can never be expected to yield a profitable return no matter how profitable under good management. Is it fair, is it an argument to hold up these cases as specimens of what bee-keeping can do?

Besides all this as in every new industry, which has to be developed at first mistakes are made, failure after failure must be recorded, but when above it all rises the solid basis upon which apiculture stands to-day, we have something to look to above the failures and reverses. We know the grand result although far from perfect has been to place bee-keeping upon a solid footing it has never heretofore enjoyed. Then let us discuss upon the present footing, not that of by-gone days. We know also that even in the part when so much has been darkness, before so many clouds were removed, men with care and forethought have made money out of bee-keeping. The reason was they knew it was not all luck and chance and they did their part as much as lay in their power and with that little the bees were content and rewarded them. And then in a broader sense. Not only are we building up a branch of agriculture which gives us the means of gathering the honey from every flower, but we know our all-seeing creator has placed it there for no idle purpose; it is there to attract fertilizing agents to distribute the pollen from flower to flower. The very construction of the flower is such that the bee cannot rifle the stores of nectar without coming in contact with that fine powdery substance, and again it must touch that part of the flower which must come in contact with this powder (pollen) to fertilize it and secure seed. Were other insects often injurious there in abundance this fertilization might be secured, but no, at the very time when our apples, pears, plums, cherries and small fruits are in bloom, these insects are yet scarce. We also know that often the time for fertilization at this season is forever cut off by unfavorable weather. The busy bee could do the work of fertilization if in sufficient numbers in one day, often securing a fruit crop where otherwise would have been none, always increasing it. Our clovers especially Alsike, the same. We are therefore until every drop of honey is gathered as it is being distilled and every flower

fertilized, until no flower is "born to waste its sweetness," until every family in the land uses no other sweet and we have arrived at the perfection of apiculture. Until that time it will pay to keep bees; we are benefitting the farmer, and gardener whose flowers the bees visit; every man, woman and child that is induced to use this most nourishing and wholesome of sweets; we are developing the resources of our land. If in addition to this we can make an honest living, say nothing of the balance. We merit the respect of our fellow men, we are individual and national benefactors and if we do it with a higher motive we will reap a higher reward.

We want more of the spirit of our grand old fathers. If they had discussed the point as a mere matter of present dollars and cents, where would we be to-day. They turned the tide, it is no trick for us to follow on. I'll warrant Rev. L. L. Langstroth and back to the first age of research, not one thought how many dollars and cents can I make out of this.

We can never claim the honor they do as having done the most good. But to whom is honor due? To the man who most fully makes use of the talent the circumstances and the times in which he lives, be they great or little.

But I am drifting from my subject, let us realize more fully our position, never admitting for a moment that bee-keeping to-day will not give us a net percentage of profit higher than any other branch of rural pursuit, that this branch will assist us to mental development and give us sources of mental enjoyment as no other does.

And should this field be in the hands of specialists only as some would argue? No. True in order to obtain our best reapers to-day, the machinist makes them, but after telling the farmer how to use it, the farmer can learn how to cut his grain. So the specialist; he has the time and he can devote his mind to bee-keeping to obtain the grandest results in exploring new fields and the farmer can apply these. Besides many men never attain the grandest possibilities in any pursuit, not one in 10,000. Apiculture is strictly a branch of the farm and were the argument to hold that he should not keep bees it should be argued, that one man should never produce grain, roots, fruit, vegetables, sheep, cattle, horses, poultry, upon his farm for he can never attain the grandest possibilities in all. We know that were this his object and he were to devote his life to one branch he would not attain that height.

And were we to argue a farmer should not keep bees upon his farm, you would argue that a farmer has no right to harvest his own crops, he has no right to employ agents, to secure to