

readily accessible to us. How best to do this is a somewhat perplexing question. A meeting of the directors of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association was held in Toronto a week ago to discuss this matter. I was not able to be present and have not fully learned the result, but a letter I have received from Pres. Pettit speaks rather discouragingly and expresses a fear that we may lose the good fruits of last year's enterprise. It is to be hoped that this fear will prove unfounded, and that such steps may be devised, as will give us an outlet in the British market for all our surplus honey. Some expression of opinion on this subject, or at any rate, a pledge of co-operation by the association will be in order.

Another matter of special interest to us is the rights of bee-keepers as involved in the recent suit of McIntosh vs. Harrison. As you are all aware this case went against the bee-keepers. His bees were declared a nuisance, and the court granted an injunction against their being kept in close proximity to the blacksmith shop of his neighbor. It has been decided to carry the matter to the Court of Appeal. The wisdom of this I greatly question and consequently do not feel prepared to back the appeal which is being made for funds with which to carry on the case. This law suit undeniably grew out of a quarrel between neighbors. The bees had been kept near the blacksmith shop for years, until an unhappy dispute about a pig-pen set McIntosh and Harrison by the ears. It would have paid Harrison to clean out the pig-pen himself and sprinkle plenty of dedorizing material about it, rather than go to law. An expense of about \$1,000 has been incurred by the litigants, uncertainty has been thrown around bee-keeping, and the end is not yet. We may expect trouble in other quarters which will cause us to exclaim, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." I find, on enquiry, that this case decides nothing as to bee-keeping in general. Bees may be a nuisance when kept close to a blacksmith shop where sweaty horses are apt to get a sting now and then, but this does not prove that they are a nuisance every where within corporation limits. The crowing of a cock near the window of a bed-room where

a feeble and nervous person lay ill, has been declared a nuisance and suppressed as such, but that does not prove that the general keeping of poultry is to be interdicted by law. The ringing of a church bell at untimely hours, or close by a house where there was sickness has been declared a nuisance, but that does not prove that all church bells are to be silenced. In regard to nuisances every case is decided on its own merits. Moreover it is costly both to plaintiff and defendant. The whole expense of the recent litigation has not fallen on Harrison. Out of the \$1,000 it is said McIntosh will have to pay about \$300. The plaintiff has got what he asked for at a high price, and is probably as sorry as the defendant that the matter ever went into court. People will pause before they enter actions involving such expense, and submit to a little annoyance rather than pay so dearly for their whistle. My neighbor cannot haul and spread manure on his garden without the risk of it being offensive to me and my family. A new store cannot be built on a crowded business street without interfering with the comfort and convenience of passers-by. We have to submit to the annoyance of neighbors, hens scratching in our gardens, and their cats making night hideous with their discordant music. In social life, we must give and take. As bee-keepers we should use every precaution against annoying our neighbors. The only complaints about my bees that I have had for years arose out of section honey being cut up for sale at the Provincial Exhibition last fall. Drops of nectar spilled here and there attracted the bees of the neighborhood, and they visited the exhibition in multiplied thousands. The day after the close of the exhibition the bees were prowling all over in search of sweetness. Two of my neighbors were making preserves in the afternoon and the bees drove the ladies from the kitchen. I was asked to come and take away my bees. I said "some of them are mine, no doubt, but others belong to Messrs. Gilchrist and Jovell, and I would not like to steal bees belonging to others. Leave the kitchen door and window open and they will all go home where they belong in the evening. To-morrow is Sunday, you will not be making preserves then, keep the