

of the trophies. the great problem before the bee-keeper, who wants his bees to be remunerative, is to keep them as quiescent as possible in winter, and hustling all the time all the rest of the year. Now here in Canada our climate almost does this for us. Our winter is a real winter, and bees put in in good condition hardly ever get uneasy until the middle of April. Then they are ready enough to begin brood-rearing and by the time fruit bloom comes, the old winter bees are dead, and the spring generation is hard at work rearing a huge population of summer bees, the bees that are going to gather the clover and make our profit. Between the close of fruit-bloom and the opening of clover, we certainly do get a few critical days, when the hives need careful watching. But once clover yields honey, the bee-keeper's troubles are at an end. All he has now to do is to hustle on the empty sections and hustle off the full; and this goes on for about six weeks. Then comes a good fall harvest of dark honey, which I prefer to leave to the bees for winter stores, as for that purpose it is just as good as clover, though not so profitable commercially. To the golden rod and buckwheat flow succeeds a late fall, fine enough for the bees to fly occasionally, which is useful, as sending them to their winter sleep in better health: but never hot enough to encourage brood-rearing, with its concomitant heavy drain on the hive vitality. Then comes our winter, which, as I have already taken occasion to remark, is a winter, not a pretence at winter; and, if the bees are put in strong, and carefully packed, they pass it with a minimum of loss: and in April, or even before, if the old-fashioned wintering is practised, they are ready to once more turn to for their owner's benefit.

The case of the English bee-keeper

is a very different tale. Winter there comes in samples. Half the winter months bees are playing at its being summer; brood-rearing is going on early in February; and, as often as not; late in the same month a good sharp touch of winter will come along, the effect of which on a hive with three or four frames of brood may be imagined—chilled brood, disease, and, even if it should manage to survive, a hive that will bring no profit that year. Even if all goes well the spring is long drawn out; the hives cannot utilize the fruit bloom as we do to stimulate brood-rearing; but some of it gets stored and mixes with, and lowers the quality of the clover. When the summer honey is over, if he wants a fall harvest, fit to call a harvest, he must generally take his hives to a healthier district. Then winter again, which is neither one thing or the other, and so the round goes on.

Roughly speaking our advantage may be summed up as follows:

The Canadian bee-keeper's bees are either earning well, or else they are safely stored in a storage that costs him nothing. The Englishman's bees on the other hand, half the year are napping about, earning it is true, but earning slowly; and the rest of the time are both idle and needing a lot of looking after. Well do not let us waste time in pitying him; the remedy is in his own hands. Steamers leave Liverpool always twice, sometimes three times a week, and the best part of the British Empire asks nothing better than to welcome him.

But do not let us, who are on the spot, neglect our great advantage.

In speaking of this question of keeping bees I began by addressing farmers and those who live in the country all the year round; but I should like to point out that bee-keeping is also the country industry