

THE CONDITION OF BEE-KEEPING IN ONTARIO

The individual occupying any responsible position must count on the day when an account will be wanted of his stewardship; of the faithful discharge of duties incumbent, of the safe guarding of the interests involved, etc.

Happy, indeed, that steward who contemplates the approach of that day of reckoning calmly and cheerfully, renders the account gladly and hears the "Well done."

Answering the call of the Ontario Government, in the spring-time of this year of grace, I became Inspector of Apiaries under the Foul Brood Act of the Province of Ontario.

In the counties to which I paid official visits during the season it devolved upon me, in addition to my duty regarding foul brood, to endeavor by all means within my power to bring some ray of comfort or hope to the many who had suffered from winter losses or the excessively heavy spring dwindling.

The winter losses in some instances had struck very sadly; where the proceeds of the apiary had in past years played such an important part in the annual payment on the farm this season finds that source of revenue cut off.

May we not reasonably hope, however, that the trying experiences of this nature will result in giving us better bee-keepers? Some one has said:—

"The good are better made by ill,
As odours crushed are sweeter still."

And did not Rudyard Kipling say in the course of one of his addresses while on his Canadian tour:—"I

doubt whether un-remitting prosperity is good for the individual." Surely, Sir, this year of trials, losses and reverses among bee-keepers must result in bringing out the best that is in the noble army of apiarists throughout this fair land.

I have allowed no opportunity to pass where a word in reference to better queens, closer attention to the requirements of the apiary, etc., might serve the purpose of cheering or encouraging those who were despondent. I considered this a part of my duty and shall continue right along in thus pointing out that in bee-keeping as in other occupations, trifles are not to be despised.

The nerve of a tooth, not so large as the finest needle will, under certain conditions, put a strong man out of business for the time being.

A defect (trifling of course) in a hive cover or the make up of a hive may spoil the prospects of a surplus from the colony.

A fault (trifling of course) in the queen bee may cause that colony, however nicely hived and cared for otherwise, to be a miserable failure.

A shortage (trifling of course) in winter stores in the hive will mean the loss of the colony from sheer starvation when thirty pounds of syrup at a cost of ninety cents would have insured it in that particular at least.

Again, Sir,— Referring to the losses and reverses of 1907, and the depression resulting therefrom; I would like to ask:—Does the Agriculturist, whose live stock or buildings have been destroyed by lightning or other cause, sit down and quit the business? Not at all; he