



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

Vol. IV. No. 31

BEETON, ONT., OCT. 24, 1888.

WHOLE No. 187

EDITORIAL.

THE Dominion government analysts reports for the past year has just reached us. Every article subjected to their scrutiny is detailed and while not a single particle of honey was examined, several samples of the commercial syrups were not found to have a reputation such as was attained by the late Mrs. Cæsar.

* *

Mr. T. B. Blow is now in the States and Canadian bee-keepers who would enjoy a visit from him can send invitations addressed to the care of this journal.

From the British Bee Journal.

BEE-KEEPING AS A HOBBY.

BEES are, in our opinion, one of the best of subjects for "hobbiists," and we claim to have kept nearly everything that can be kept. First, as to the £ s. d. question. If judiciously managed, and we can only have sense enough to avoid fads, they will, taking the cost and produce of, say, ten years, show a good balance on the right side of the account, and this to a greater extent than the majority of hobbies. Secondly, as to trouble. No stock can be cared for with as little trouble during a year as our bees. In most summers we should require to do very little to them, and from October to March nothing except watch that the

doorway does not get blocked with snow. As to the interesting problems of bee-life, there is nothing so fascinating and instructive, whether considered only as an evidence of the peculiar manner in which an insect can obtain its living, or if more deeply studied, as an exemplification of a wise and far-seeing Providence, guiding and directing our bees that they shall, while in search of their necessary sustenance, be the means of increasing our food at the same time by fertilization of the fruit-blossoms of our gardens and orchards. This fact of the increased crops of fruit, which really does arise from the labors of the bees, should be considered as an item of profit arising from their care and protection. In our opinion, no garden in country districts should be without at least one stock of bees. So far as the supply is concerned, there is nothing to prevent honey of the finest quality being as the typical "blackberries" if we will only keep bees everywhere so that the delicious nectar may be gathered and stored instead of being wasted as at present. Bad seasons like the present must of necessity be encountered, but the good seasons must be borne in mind, when every blossom is a small honey factory, and only our little friends are necessary in order to obtain this sweetness for ourselves.

Hobbies inculcate patience, forbearance, and forethought. Let either of these three qualities be wanting in the "hobbiist," and he cannot be successful.