

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

- OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

MR. COWAN'S REPLY TO MR. W. Z.
HUTCHINSON.

MR. EDITOR.—My attention has been called to a communication from Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson on page five of April 1st number of your Journal, wherein he states that his opinion of me is shaken because I state that honey contains no cane sugar.

I need only point to such an authority as Mr. Otto Hehner, the President of the Society of Analysts in London, to show that my statements, as far as our knowledge in England of honey is concerned, are correct.

I will quote from "The Chemistry of the Hive," by Otto Hehner, F.C.S., F.I.C., etc., page 5, where he states:—

"The occurrence in honey of ordinary sugar, cane sugar, has also often been alleged, but I have fully satisfied myself that there is no foundation for such a statement. The proof is comparatively simple. If dextrose or levulose be heated with an alkaline solution of copper sulphate, a red precipitate of suboxide of copper is thrown down; cane sugar does not act in this manner. But by treatment with acids cane sugar readily changes; it is transformed into a mixture of equal quantities of dextrose and levulose, precisely as they naturally compose honey. Did honey, therefore, include cane sugar as one of its normal constituents, it should be expected that after treatment with acid the same weight of honey should be capable of throwing down a larger proportion of the red suboxide of copper than before such addition of acid. This however is not the case."

I cannot give you a better authority on sugars than Mr. Hehner, and his opinion is of much greater value than mine.

The above appeared in the BRITISH BEE JOURNAL in 1890, pp. 579, 587, 601, where it will be found in full.

Yours truly, THOS. WM. COWAN.

31, Belsize Park Gardens,

London, N.W., May 6, 1893.

The readers of the C.B.J., especially the exhibitors, will doubtless desire to hear something from their representative at Chicago.

I left home on the 29th of April, arriving in Toronto late the same evening, and set to work the next morning gathering up the exhibits from the various railway freight sheds and express offices, and storing them in a place on the Esplanade which I secured for temporary storage and for liquification. This was in the establishment formerly occupied by the firm of Jacques & Hayes, and in it I secured the necessary steam facilities for liquifying the candied honey. I had previously communicated with Mr. Buchanan of Chicago, the chief of the Agricultural Department of the World's Fair, as to the practicability of liquifying at Chicago after arrival, asking if the proper facilities were available at or near Jackson Park. He replied that they were not, and strongly advised me to liquify before leaving Canada. Acting upon this, and not knowing that I would be able readily to secure the proper facilities on short notice at Toronto, I instructed the exhibitors in the circulars sent out to them to liquify their extracted honey if possible before shipping it, knowing it would be but little trouble for each exhibitor to liquify his honey and to do it well, and also knowing that it could not be done neat Chicago and bottled up while warm; nor at Toronto, as the bottles were not there.

It is exceedingly difficult for some people to follow instructions. Some fail to understand explicit instructions, no matter how plain, and some who do understand them think they know better themselves what ought to be done and how to do it, and accordingly proceed to do it in their own way. From the president of the O.B.K.A. down through the ranks one here and there failed to follow the instructions contained in my circular. While some were doubtless careless, others of the delinquents knew better what ought to be done. For instance,

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