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## CALIFORNIAN HONEY IN ENGLAND.

WE have before us the "Annual Market Review" of the honey and beeswax business of California for 1886, as issued by Messrs. Schacht & Lemcke, of San Francisco, Cal., shipping and commission merchants. From it we glean some very interesting information. We find that the number of cases of honey (each case we believe holds an average of 112 lbs.) shipped to England in 1885, amounted to 10,000; and in 1886, only 3,475 cases, of which 1,500 were of the production of 1885. These gentlemen estimate that the total production of honey for 1886 amounted to 2,000 tons extracted and 500 tons comb honey. The exports to England as given here looks well on paper, but on a closer examination we find that a very large quantity of the honey thus shipped to the British market remains unsold on the docks, even to this date, so that the reason as given by Messrs. S. & L. for the small shipments of 1886, is nearly in accordance with the facts as we find them. The reason they give is that "the small shipments to Europe in 1886 were caused by the low prices ruling there in consequence of too heavy shipments in the preceding years, and by no means by the decreasing demand abroad, because California honey finds more and more favour everywhere." On the 14th Oct. last no less than 910 cases of Californian honey were put up by auction at the docks in London, Eng-

land, and one-half of it only found buyers, the balance being still in hand. The commission merchants carry stocks generally about a year before disposing by auction, so that it is probable many of the 1886 shipments are still waiting for purchasers. We give in the above only the number of cases held by two firms, and it is probable that there is in small lots at least as much more of the 1885 crop as here given. The prices at which honey was disposed of in California was 3 to 4½ cents per pound, according to quality. It has then to be sent to England, freight paid and stored there for nearly year (the 910 cases reached London July 1885) there to be sold at an average of 20 s. per cwt. (112 lbs.) the lowest being 13s. 6d. and the highest 26s. Off this 20s. must be deducted for discount, commission, brokerage, trade allowances, postage, insurance, dockage and other charges, amounting, we are told by the principal of one of those firms to about 2s. per cwt., so that the exporter gets 18s. per cwt. net, and out of this has to pay freights, etc. The price per pound received, on the average, for the honey which was disposed of at that time, was therefore from 3 to 3½ cents per pound. Most of you will be able to figure up the profits in these transactions. We give these particulars that some of those who still have faith in the "commission" system of disposal of our honey in the English market, may have new ideas to think upon. All the facts and figures given here are taken from written and printed matter before us.