

greatly surprised at the glowing accounts of big yields, etc. We would not wonder that wholesale men sometimes jump at conclusions.

Sometime in Sept. of this year, speaking with different wholesale men in Toronto, was surprised to hear them speak of bee-keepers coming to them and telling of their big crops of honey. One man in particular, who had a fair crop of honey this year, seemed to have visited nearly every firm for the purpose of expanding himself. I did not wonder when I tried to assure them that there was not a large crop of honey in Ontario this year, that they shook their heads in a knowing way, intimating that I "had an axe to grind," or I would not talk like that. In conclusion, while having only treated this subject in a superficial way, I frankly admit, that as conditions are to-day, I have no suggestions to offer other than the very simple ones that will readily occur to the mind of everyone without my taking the time to mention them. The only logical solution of the problem of reporting and marketing the honey crop is that we must change existing conditions. While prices for honey as for nearly all other products must always be largely controlled by the laws of supply and demand, yet this is the case to a greater extent with some things more than others. For instance, many varieties of fruit are of a very perishable nature, and in the event of a large crop there is not time for proper distribution. On the contrary, GOOD HONEY will keep indefinitely, and even if we have a fair crop, no glutting of the markets need take place if it is properly distributed. As it is to-day a fair crop in one locality will often overload the nearest market, even should there be a comparative failure of the crop in other sections. This will at once bring to our minds the paramount

issue before the bee-keepers of to-day—commercial organization. In this age, when the combination spirit is so rampant in the land that some wag has suggested that, "ten mills make on 'trust, ten trusts make one combine," should be added to our tables of weights and measures. I feel that we should be very careful how we move in this direction. Have nothing to offer along this line, indeed, it would be presumption on my part to do so, as we are shortly to listen to a report from a committee appointed to look into this matter. Nevertheless I feel sure that anything that will better the condition of the bee-keeper and at the same time not violate the principles of the Golden Rule will receive the hearty support of the majority of the members of this Association.

President: I will ask Mr. Craig to open the discussion on this paper.

Mr. Craig: Mr. Chairman and bee-keepers, this subject has been under discussion to some extent in the Canadian Bee Journal during the last season and notwithstanding this I do not know that anything very definite has been reached. Mr. Byer's very excellent paper has left the matter before us as we all see it. So far as the bee journals are concerned they receive their reports or information from the very best possible sources. We are dependent upon the directors of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association and these, although they have not been definitely appointed by you to send in their reports, have very kindly and very faithfully given them to us and we have in turn tried to report them as faithfully, so that every member of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association and every reader of the Canadian Bee Journal from the Atlantic to the Pacific can know to a certain extent at least what the condition of the honey crop is over the Dominion. Now, the trouble