

the province, and, secondly, to make the bee-keeper believe there is a big crop, and then bluff him into selling it to them at a low price.

Now, brother bee-keepers, if you do not wish to place yourselves at the mercy of these people, do not in future state to any inquirer how much you have for sale. Rather tell them that you have a limited quantity at so much, and ask them to let you know how much you will send at that price. Don't get scared and be in a hurry. But on no account tell them what you have for sale, and then allow them to total up the entire honey crop of the province.

Why cannot the Bee-keepers' Association arrange for one of their number to locate in Toronto in the fall after the crop is harvested and receive the reports from all the members and others, as to what quantity they have to dispose of, and let all sales be made through him, and refer all inquiries to him. The secret of what your crop is would then be your own affair, and these people would pay your price or go without. This is worth looking into. I shall have something more to say on this later on.

JAS. J. HURLEY.

Brantford, Ont.

No doubt but a good many bee-keepers have snapped at the bait, and it is too bad if they have, yet we cannot altogether blame these business men for securing all the information they can about crops, etc. It is part of their business and bee-keepers and others dealing with them should remember this and govern themselves accordingly. Friend Hurley gives sound advice in the latter part of his letter, so also does H. G. Sibbald on another page, which we

would say to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest.

Syrup for Feeding.

Dr. Miller says in a Straw Straw in Gleanings: "I've been trying to learn how thin a syrup bees would take. In a feeder away from the hives I put one part sugar and three parts water; then one of sugar to four of water, and so on. When it came to one of sugar and ten of water, the bees still took it, but were rather lazy about it. They were gathering at the time a little from flowers. In a time of entire dearth of nectar they might take a much weaker solution, and I suspect that when the feeding is done early enough, it may be well to use considerably more water than sugar.

The Editor adds: Yes, I think you are right. The thinner the syrup, up to a certain point, the more thoroughly will the bees digest it, and the less liable it is to candy in the combs in winter. The old rule, to feed three parts of sugar to one of water, for winter feed, was a mistake, and I think that was the cause one winter at least, of our losing bees very heavily. We have never had any sugar syrup candy in combs, containing one part sugar and one part water; but now strikes me that if we feed early enough, as you say, three parts water and one of sugar would give better results still. It would be interesting to know what the proportion of saccharine to water is in ordinary nectar. Can some professor of chemistry tell us?

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