

A similar "farce" is now being enacted in Nebraska, but it will doubtless end in a like fizzle. Bee-keepers have a right to be proud of the achievements of their Union for Defence.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN.

General Manager.

Chicago, Ill., Feb., 1893.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

W. T. COWAN, ON THE SUGAR HONEY BUSINESS.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed please find copy of a letter from Mr. T. W. Cowan, Editor B.B.J. Coming from the source that it does, it will be read by all beekeepers with much interest.

It is of peculiar and deep interest, as it settles the question, "Can bees make honey of sugar syrup?" It also disposes of another important question, viz., "Is there any difficulty in detecting sugar-fed combs?"

You will confer a favor upon many anxious beekeepers by inserting said letter in the C.B.J. Yours, etc.

S. T. PETTIT.

Belmont, March 7. 1893.

31 BELSIZE PARK GARDENS,
HAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND, N. W.

3rd. February, 1893.

DEAR MR. PETTIT,—I was pleased to find by your letter that the Ontario B.K.A. had taken up the matter of so-called sugar honey, and have decided to ask for legislation on the subject.

I saw also that you had brought the matter before the Oxford Association, and was very glad to find that it had brought forward this desire to put a stop to the practice of feeding sugar to produce comb.

I can only look upon such a proceeding as most suicidal to the industry, and would do all in my power to prevent it.

You will no doubt remember the stand I took against giving bees fruit sugar as a food. If you have the British Bee Journal, you will find the articles in the volume for 1890, page 545, and also a long article on page 597, which goes very fully into the matter and would be useful to you in this controversy as it touches on many scientific points bearing on the subject.

I could not conceive anything much more detrimental to the industry of bee-keeping than that the public should suppose that honey in the comb was produced by

feeding the bees with sugar. They will naturally and very properly look upon it as adulteration. Those who have advocated it state that it is harmless, but this is not an argument that should for a moment be considered. The question is whether, after it has been stored by bees in the combs, it can be legitimately called honey.

This brings me to your first question.

1. Can honey bees make honey of sugar syrup?

To this I unhesitatingly say, No. Sugar syrup stored in the combs by the bees remains sugar syrup still. It may deceive some, but there would be no difficulty for a competent chemist to state what it is.

It is quite possible that a portion of the cane sugar in the syrup may be converted into grape sugar, but this does not make it honey. The principal characteristic of honey is the aroma that it has, and which differs from the source from which the honey is derived. Then, those who have written in favor of sugar syrup have omitted to note that there are saccharine substances in honey that are peculiar to it, and that would not be found in syrup.

2. If we feed sugar syrup to bees and send the product to the English markets, what effect would that course have upon the sale of Canadian honey in English markets? Could you or your best chemists tell the difference between honey and the fraudulent article above referred to.

It would not be long before your product would be shut out of our markets, and it would do you an injury that you would be years in getting over. I have only to remind you of the adulterations of American honey some years ago; and although it is twelve years since adulterated honey was introduced into this country by a man named Hoge, and Messrs. Thurbers, legitimate American honey has never taken its proper place in the markets owing to the suspicion there still exists of its adulteration.

We have a public analyst and our own analyst in connection with our Association, and he had no difficulty in detecting the adulterations. These our Association exhibited at the Health Exhibition in 1884. Hoge had the assurance to have a stand next us and made a complaint, and, after the investigation, the Duke of Buckingham, who was chairman of the Commissioners ordered him to be turned out of the Exhibition. The quantity imported now from America is very small, and we attribute it entirely to its having been adulterated in those days.

Our Association has also waged war against sugar-fed comb honey so called. Formerly there were a good many supers