

GENERAL.

Impure Wax.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

YOUR vigorous remarks on page 182, of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, will elicit the hearty applause of every right thinking man. I can vouch for your statements in the main. I know of a bee-keeper who purchased 15 lbs. of comb foundation within ten miles of me. He took it home and put a considerable quantity in frames, and upon putting it in the hives found as you state. In other instances the foundation broke down, and all his labor and that of the bees went for naught. He took the whole article back—unused foundation, broken down foundation and frames—to the party he got it from, to show him how it had acted. Whether he obtained justice or not, I have not heard. I have a sheet of the stuff in the house now. It has not the taste of wax, nor does it chew like wax. The test you give is a good one, and is one I had not thought of up to the time of reading your remarks. How any supply dealer can be foolish enough to make a practice of sending out such stuff for wax I know not; he must not care to establish a business, or to do justice to his customers. Of course 40 cents per pound is dear for the article, and good foundation at 55 cents per pound is cheap in comparison.

SECTION HONEY BY THE POUND.

Before reading Mr. R. McKnight's article upon the sale of comb honey, and deducting for the weight of the section, I had never thought that anyone allowed for weight of section, and such being the custom I never thought that there was anything *wrong* about it. Tea, sugar, etc., are always weighed in the paper, as Mrs. McKnight will probably be able to inform Mr. McKnight. Of course where the weight of the package is considerable the practice does not exist. It will be difficult to make any change (I use the word advisedly, because it would be a *change*, ninety cases out of a hundred) of deducting the weight of the sections, and unless the change is *general*, the bee-keeper, and the honey consumer will have misunderstandings. A section weighs from one-half to three-quarters of an ounce. If Mr. McKnight's nice comb honey were not already sufficient inducement, his allowance for sections will be sure to induce me to purchase what extra comb honey I may need from him, providing he does not put an extra price on the article.

R. F. HOLTERMANN,

Romney, Ont., July 28, '90.

We did not have room for Mr. Holtermann's article in last issue, and since then he will have seen our further remarks regarding impure wax and bogus foundation. As Mr. H. does not live many miles from Tilbury Centre, doubtless the foundation came from the party of whom complaints were made on page 206. We have just received from Mr. David Smith, Thedford, the following letter, in which he gives his experience, in this matter:

The D. A. Jones Co., Limited,
Beeton, Ont.

SIRs,—Before I returned foundation, sample No. 1, I wrote asking what was wrong, as it was all breaking down. He said it was the heat, the foundation "was all right." I found, however, that it *was not* all right, and so returned it. I then received a card containing the following, along with a shipment of foundation (sample No. 2):

D. S. SMITH, THEDFORD:—I send you 55 lbs. of brood comb that I know is all right; let me hear from you if the comb suits now, as I want to do what is right with everyone. We got all the States wax refined we want, we will lose a hundred dollars on the wax we got from the States.

R. E. SMITH.

I have not answered him yet in regard to No. 2, I have between 30 lbs. and 40 lbs of it yet. It is no use to me. Would you advise me to return it? Would it be right for me to pay for what has broken down, and been lost?

DAVID SMITH.

Thedford, Ont., Aug. 4, '90.

P. S.—Is he a rogue or a fool?

From a preliminary test of No. 2 sample, we are of opinion that while it is somewhat better than No. 1, still it is considerably adulterated. If this lot should prove to be adulterated even to *any extent*, then we may feel pretty certain, that the whole affair has been a preconceived plan on the part of the manufacturer to swindle the public, and as such he should be dealt with. From what Mr. David Smith says, in the questions he asks, we take it that he has not yet paid for the foundation he has received, and he asks our advice as to what he should do. If it is as we understand, our advice would be to ship back the foundation at once, and consider himself well rid of the transaction. We shall have the sample No.