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disappointing one to the majority of bee-keepers. As we have said in our last issue, 'Lots of bloom and nectar,' but the weather did not admit of it being gathered. We have endeavored to obtain faithful reports from directors and others, and so far as we can ascertain throughout the Province of Ontario at least there has been about a good half crop of clover honey. Basswood was a complete failure. Comb will be scarce and poorly filled. When asked about prices we can merely say that we see no reason why they should be lower than last season.'

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No doubt there has been a large increase of bees through excessive swarming. This some are pleased to term a good season, but unfortunately it does not mean honey.

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Even were the report a correct one, it is our impression that the department has gone considerably 'out of its department' in making the statement that 'present prospects are that prices will be much lower than for several seasons.' This was not said in connection with any of the crops that are really abundant, and through an injustice has been done (unintentionally, no doubt) to the bee-keepers of Ontario."

W. J. CRAIG.

Brantford, Aug. 22.

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Here is more trouble along the same line. We have just received the following letter from a neighboring bee-keeper:

to the Editor of the C. B. J.—  
I desire, with your permission, to write before the Canadian bee-keepers Bee the methods adopted by the whole- or commission houses of Toronto and elsewhere, in their attempt to state the price of honey. They are evidently under the impression that the average bee-keeper is very

easily bluffed, and doubtless this impression has been strengthened by past experience and practice. I wish to make known a specific case which came within my own observation recently. One of the leading commission firms of Toronto recently sent out a postal card asking each bee-keeper addressed how much honey he had for sale, and what was his best price in sixty-pound cases, f. o. b. shipping point. I received one of these cards. I replied that I had about 500 pounds, and would dispose of it at 9 cents per lb. This price, after deducting the price of the tin and crating, would leave me 8 cents for my honey. It is my opinion that honey cannot be produced at a fair profit for less than 8 cents per lb. Imagine my surprise when I received in reply the following from the firm referred to. "We have been in correspondence with nearly all the principal apiarists in Ontario, and find that there is a large production of clover honey, and you will require to get your ideas down considerably in order to meet the market. Please say by return mail your very lowest price f. o. b. in 60-lb. tins or in barrels for your lot. We only require a limited quantity, so will accept the lots offered at lowest price of course."

I immediately replied that I would "get my ideas down in the Canadian Bee Journal and denounce their methods and impudent bluffing."

They wanted only a limited quantity and yet write every bee-keeper in the province! The worst feature of this bluff is the fact that the card was not one specially written for me, but was printed on a printing press, or memograph, or other manifolding machine, and was evidently sent to all or nearly all who replied to their first card. This demonstrates the method they adopt, first, to learn how much honey there is for sale in