

The Canadian Bee Journal.

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ADULTERATION OF HONEY.

BEE Journals have much need to "cry out" against those unscrupulous and unthinking people who are always talking and writing about "adulterated" honey, "glucose" honey, and honey *manufactured* by human hands. Almost every day in glancing over exchanges we come across some item or other which is a reflection on the honest profession of the apiarist. But all other trades and professions are treated in like manner, so that bee-keepers are not alone in their grievance. By the way, do not bee-keepers in writing, very often talk of syrups, &c., which are now placed on the market, as being miserable, adulterated, poisonous trash, while they are upholding the good qualities of their honey. True they *are* in many instances just what they are classed but just here we may find the fountain head whence springs all or most of these stories about adulterated honey; a sort of retaliation as it were, and it is only human. Beeswax comes in for its share of the "cry" too, as will be seen by the following item, clipped from an exchange the other day:—

"Why do bees make wax?" asks a farm journal. We do not know unless it is because no one has told them that the honey manufacturers are willing to make it for them out of paraffine."

Because somebody at sometime may have experimented with paraffine, the word goes forth to the world that all beeswax of modern date is nothing more or less than paraffine. Why, in the name of common sense, would beekeepers be offering 40 cents per pound for beeswax, if paraffine would answer equally as well at 15 to 20 cts. per pound. This fact of itself should be sufficiently con-

demning to wipe such a ridiculous statement out altogether, as anything that touches the pocket is generally a pretty clinching argument. Another proof that paraffine is of no earthly use is that it will melt at a temperature of 110 to 120, while the temperature in the body of the hive during the honey season is not as a rule much less than 100 to 110, and nothing but the purest of beeswax will withstand that temperature.

But from the following article, which we know has been in at least fifty in one hundred of our Canadian newspapers it seems that honey is "blown in by machinery." This article was headed, "The Busy Bee's Occupation Gone," and shows the very voluminous amount of imagination that some reporter or newspaper writer has been possessed of

"The spurious honey is now put up in little square boxes, which sell for from twenty to thirty cents a pound. It looks like honey, and it is said that it takes an excellent judge to tell that it is a fraud on the bee. The comb is manufactured with such skill that but few can tell it from the genuine article. It is made from paraffine or beeswax, and the honey is blown into it by machinery. Another kind is put up in glass vessels, like ordinary jelly packages, the centre of which contains a piece of honeycomb, and the honey is made by pouring about six parts of glucose around one part of honey in the comb. Some of it is adulterated with glucose, with cane sugar, with the syrup of inverted cane and others by heating ordinary sugar with an acid; but it all resembles honey and to a certain extent has its flavor and color."

We cannot think that the public are so easily "gulled" as to believe any such statement. One cannot blame them perhaps for suspecting that the honey they eat is made of sugar syrup, fed to the bees and by them stored in the comb, because beekeepers write and talk about the amount of "sugar syrup" fed to their bees each Fall to prepare