

Friend Hutchinson says in the last issue of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL he may probably have made mistakes in the past. Well, who has not? But I must say a man who confesses that he fed sugar to his bees, and secured comb honey which he took to the fair and secured first premium on which he furnished to neighbors, etc., "yet its origin has never been suspected" (see Mr. Hutchinson's own confession, page 274, *Beekkeepers' Review*), I say such a man is not in a position to discuss this question from an honest standpoint. If he had awaited the decision of the judges and then said, "Gentlemen, this is not honey; it is sugar syrup fed to bees; give the award to the honey exhibitors who have striven to produce the best article with the flow at their command," all would have been well; but the remark, "Yet its origin has never been suspected" settles that. He quietly took the award and defrauded the exhibitors. If he refunded the money for the comb honey supplied to neighbors after they had eaten it, well and good; if not, he would have no right to experiment with his neighbors by perpetrating a fraud upon them. No, I regret to say, I do not think all Mr. Hutchinson's actions have been honest in this matter. That Mr. Clarke has taken the stand he has upon this question does not surprise me. I would remind the readers of C.B.J. that I have been attacked by the pen of one who has attained full maturity and strength in using it. I am with my pen but a stripling, yet I were a craven did I allow myself to be attacked without defending.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, Ont.

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#### Winter Is Past.

The snow has melted from the fields,  
The woods begin to look less bare,  
The bracing air sweet incense yields  
And speaks of buds and blossoms fair.

The birds are singing in the trees,  
Building their nests and making love;  
From winter quarters come the bees,  
And far in quest of sweets they rove.

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUGAR AND PURE HONEY.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1903.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 4th instant, I will say that I believe we are now able to detect the difference between honey made by feeding bees sugar syrup and pure honey gathered by bees from flowers. We can certainly do this if, when the bees are fed with sugar syrup, they are not allowed access to flowers. If the bees made the honey partly from sugar syrup and partly from flowers, then there would be a doubt in regard to the matter. I did not say positively, at the meeting in Washington, that I could detect this difference, but I said that I believed that we would soon be able to, and this I now think we can do. I do not doubt that chemical science will be able to keep pace with every kind of food adulteration, even to the distinguishing of honey made from sugar syrup from that obtained from the nectar of flowers. In fact, I do not regard the former as honey at all in any true meaning of the word, my definition of honey being—"the nectar of flowers gathered and stored by bees." I am, etc.

D. W. WILEY, Chemist.

MR R. F. HOLTERMANN,  
Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

The above letter received from Doctor Wiley should settle this. I did not claim he could detect honey and sugar syrup mixed and fed, but sugar syrup fed alone; and that was my question. Note what Doctor Wiley considers sugar syrup feeding,—"*food adulteration*," "I do not regard the former as honey at all,"—referring to sugar syrup.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

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The pastures fresh and fair appear,  
Where soft-eyed kine and milk-white sheep  
Roam in the sunlight warm and clear,  
And crop the daisies where they peep.