

much reluctance that I consented to write up a short paper on this phase of our business. My chief objection being my lack of experience as compared with a number of my hearers of to-day, coupled with the fact of certain peculiar and somewhat unpleasant conditions existing this past season; the same no doubt which prompted our executive committee to bring this subject before you at this our annual meeting.

From the first it has seemed to me that the term, "Market Reports," was hardly comprehensive enough, "Crop Reports," to my mind being a little more expressive. With this thought in view, I have taken the liberty to use the two phrases, not exactly as synonymous terms, yet in conjunction, the one with the other. For the sake of convenience, have divided the subject matter under two headings, "Market or Crop Reports," as published in the regular columns of our Bee Journals and other papers, and "Market or Crop Reports," appearing from time to time in the news columns of our dailies and other periodicals. With the first named part of the subject I believe there are few of our bee-keepers who have much to complain of. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the Bee Journals giving us reports of crops and prices of honey, are reasonably correct, and are endeavoring to the best of their ability to give the bee-keepers all the information they are able to, under conditions existing as they are to-day. As to our daily and weekly papers, have never noticed that the general public, or merchants either, for that matter, take much stock of honey quotations in the regular market columns, sometimes having received more for my honey than what the market quoted, and at other times less.

From the "Honey Column" in

"Gleanings," September 15th issue, I make the following extract from report forwarded to said paper under date of September 10th, by a Toronto firm who handles considerable honey each year: "Extracted honey, white clover, good body, 8c. per lb. Some was bought at 9, even at 10, but the crop turned out better than was expected and bee-keepers are all willing to take less. It seems a mistake that bee-keepers are all crowding their produce on the market at the same time, and what they cannot sell they consign to commission houses who always break the price." The facts as outlined in this report are so simple as to need no comment from me. While not aware that any considerable quantity of honey was placed in the hands of commission men so early as September 10th, I am, however, quite alive to the fact that it is quite natural for the bee-keepers (especially we of slim pocket-books) to exchange their honey for money just so soon as they can get what they consider a fair remuneration for their product. Let me add that as long as the marketing of the honey crop is conducted in the haphazard manner of to-day any amount of preaching to the contrary will not prevent the bee-keeper of limited circumstances from converting his honey into hard cash at his earliest opportunity. These remarks might perhaps be applied to the small producer as well, a class, by the way, who have been censured so much in the past that we can well afford to leave them alone in the discussion to-day. The second division of our subject is no doubt by far the most important one for us to take into consideration, perhaps the only part of the question that we are much interested in. For some inexplicable reason, anything appearing in the news columns of our