

myself on a subject which must be of some interest to B. J. readers:—

1. On inquiring for English honey at a large wholesale and retail London shop the other day I was referred to the proprietor in the office. He told me that he had no English honey, but that he sold about three tons of foreign honey a year, for which he gave 2½d. a lb. He stated that many even of the chemists, in addition to such people as hawkers, sold foreign honey as English. The latter would buy from him as much as one or two cwt. at a time.

2. At another shop, on asking for English honey, I was shown some metal-capped jars with the words "Pure Honey" and the name and address of an appliance dealer from whom it was bought on the labels. "This," said the manager, "was ordered by me from a traveller who said that he came from—shire, and, of course, I concluded that it was English honey as he said nothing to the contrary, and especially as he had informed me that his employer kept bees." The honey was sent but he found out that it was not English honey at all. When the traveller came again to him he charged him with selling him foreign honey for English. Of course the traveller could not deny it, but he made a lame excuse. This appliance dealer, who takes prizes at honey shows, knows perfectly well what his traveller does, but renders *himself* free from attack as he only puts "pure" honey on the labels and not "English" honey.

3. At another shop the same history was repeated, only in this case the traveller represented—shire dealer. The honey was labelled "White Flower Honey" and "Heather Honey," which was palpably not English, and English was not on the labels. Of this class of foreign honey, about four tons were offered for sale to an honest dealer in English honey by a—shire bee-keeper, who is also, it appears, an importer of foreign honey. In this case the written offer, which I have seen, left you to suppose it was English "Honey." "White Clover Honey" were the words used. On asking the bee keeper for a guarantee that it was "English," the truth came out that it was "foreign honey." This, of course, ended the negotiations.

4. Perhaps the worst case is that of a London chemist, who told me that before he went into business on his own account he had been engaged in three wholesale drug houses, and in every one of them foreign honey was sent to their retail customers instead of, and as, English, if English honey happened to be high in price, or if they had no English honey in stock.

A man may buy or sell foreign honey if he likes, but he may not sell it as English.

Should not the county in which English honey is gathered, or the word "English," with the name of the producer be put on each bottle in every case?

A LOVER OF GOOD HONEY.

The editor makes the following editorial comments:

"The letter of a correspondent will throw some light on the way in which the British bee-keeper and the consumer of what the latter supposes to be British honey are defrauded by dishonest or unscrupulous traders. The question of meeting the difficulty, as regards protecting the native product, is a wide one, and will, no doubt, receive full and careful attention on the part of the B. B. K. A. and its affiliated County Associations. In the meantime we can but impress on our readers, who are members of County Associations, the importance of using the county label on their honey. This, at least, is one way of securing its identity as British honey, and if consumers are educated into the use of the label, they will be disposed to prefer such honey from the tradesmen whose jars are furnished with the British trade mark in the shape of the county label."

The British Bee-keeper has a distinct right to complain of such treatment, so has the British Consumer, and if the honey is Canadian so has the Canadian Bee-keeper. We want everything sold for what it is, and Canadian Bee-keepers are anxious and not afraid to sell Canadian honey for what it is. They know that they can establish a reputation for Canadian honey. Care must of course be taken to send only a good quality; but of this, with a little care, we can produce an abundance.

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The British Bee-Keepers' Guide Book, No. 1, Thousand, by Thomas William Cowan,

L. S., F. G. S., F. R. S.

The British Bee-keepers' Guide Book. It is a book of nearly

two hundred pages, well printed and illustrated, price 1s. 6d. and a valuable apicultural work. The system of handling and managing bees is somewhat different to our American, but the book is well worth reading. There is no apicultural work we value more highly than the Honey Bee by the same author. There are many ideas that Europe