



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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## EDITORIAL

### MUST THE EXTRACTOR GO?

AS A MEANS OF RAISING THE PRICE OF HONEY

**A** YEAR ago, at Woodstock, at the Annual Convention of the O.B.K.A., the Rev. W. F. Clarke, now president of the Association, spoke out his mind quite freely against the use of the Extractor. He advanced many reasons, which he considered cogent, why the extractor should be banished from the apiary. Among others were these:—1. The extractor had much to do with the cry of adulterated honey on the market. 2. If extracting honey from the brood nest was practised the safety of the colony for wintering was endangered. 3. It was responsible for the reduced price of honey generally.

And now the editor of the *Apiculturist* comes along, and tells us that he is of the same opinion, advancing much the same arguments, with special stress on number three. He advocates increasing the use of sections, thus reducing the crop of honey one-third. Things seem to be a good deal worse with our friends over the border than with us, though, dear knows, we have had bad enough luck here in Canada the past three years. But the price of honey has not got down to such a low ebb, as with our "Yankee" brethren. We do not think that doing away with the extractor is going to help matters very much, excepting to throw honey back

to where it was before—a luxury. Do we want such a state of things? Specialists may perhaps. Bee-keeping is fast reaching that stage where there will be some chance of regulation. The first few years of any new industry are generally marked by large profits, but in the meantime similar industries crop up, and profits are cut down, until they find their level in a *fair honest* recompense for the work performed. But before this stage is reached prices often go down to, or maybe below, the actual cost of production. As it has been with other industries, so it has been, and is now with bee-keeping. A few more years will find honey a staple article, properly catalogued in the general market reports, and when that time comes the price of honey will be even better than it is now. But the extractor is not at all likely to go.

### VIRGIN QUEENS.

**Q** F virgin queens, in which by the way, we did a large trade last season, Mr Alley writes in the last number of the *Apiculturist*:

"If those who introduce these (virgin) queens desire to see one leave the hive to mate, all they need do is to go to the hive about one o'clock the first fair day [after] the queen is introduced, and they will not have long to wait for her ladyship to make her appearance. During the months of June, July and August, virgin queens usually leave the hive soon after one o'clock. At the last part of August and through the