

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL:

THE HONEY MARKET.

I FULLY agree with R. F. Holterman and F. W. Fulford that much more honey might be sold at home if every bee-keeper would try hard to do so. But do they? is the question, and will they? Many will not, and their honey is forced upon the market at any price they can get, and they take trust and trade for pay, and we all have to take the consequences. They say "they don't like to peddle," and I confess I do not. This peddling business may do well enough when you have the field all or nearly all to yourself, but take an example. Suppose J. B. Hall, and all those who keep bees in and around Woodstock, should start out peddling honey, I imagine the people would soon get a bull-dog apiece or look upon them as they do upon book agents, map peddlers, etc. Mr. Fulford says, page 756, C. B. J.: "If every bee-keeper will exert himself in devising means and methods for the development of their home market, there will be little danger of over production for a long time to come." As the above statement is calculated to injure our exhibition at Kensington, I feel bound to reply to it. Seventy-five per cent. of our bees died last winter. The twenty-five per cent. that came through gathered only fifty per cent. per colony of an average yield. Now, our average winter loss is about twenty per cent. Based upon the above data our crop of the last year was only about fifteen and one half per cent. of what it would have been under ordinary circumstances or conditions, and yet with only this exceedingly light crop our markets are full of honey, and considerable quantities are still in the hands of producers.

So far as we can judge from twelve years of experience the season of 1886 will give us a large yield of honey. We have a large number of bees, and they are wintering nicely. I think we may fairly estimate that Ontario will yield six times as much honey as it did last year.

Now in that case provided we have no outlet for our honey, what will happen to our markets? If you will turn to page 765, C. B. J., and read the "Detroit honey market," you will find a forecast of what ours probably would be a year hence if not relieved by a British market.

That we can sell our honey there, there is no reason to question. Here is what the *British Bee Journal* says about it: "Our Canadian friends may rest assured that a hearty welcome awaits them here, and that we have room for all those fine qualities of honey for which they are so justly celebrated." Of course very much can be done by way of developing our own market,

and it is a duty we owe to each other as well as to ourselves.

Your commissioners believe that it will not be necessary to tax the honey sent to the Indian and Colonial for expenses more than one-half cent per lb.

There is a large number who intend to help us at Kensington, but as yet have not sent me the amount that they would like to exhibit.

Please send along soon, and if you do not get the honey it will be all right; there will be no compulsion. I may say that some of our largest and best producers mean to send all or nearly all next year's crop.

THE O. B. K. ASSOCIATION

Should be better supported now that it will soon be incorporated with an annual grant of \$500; I think every proud bee-keeper will at once send along his dollar to Sec.-Treas. W. Couse, of Meadowvale, Ont., and encourage those who are working hard to make the whole thing a success.

Away off in cold Norway they have a bee-keeper's Association, "that was established in June 27th, 1884, so that it is a little over a year old. Although so young it numbered on the 1st of October last as many as 914 members."—*British B. J.*

S. T. PATTIN, Pres. O. B. K. A.

Belmont, Ont., Mar. 24, 1886.

The above shows the deep interest that our worthy President is taking in the welfare of bee-keepers. In reference to peddling honey around among the farmers, it is quite true there are some who do not care to do it, and they would not make as good salesmen as do those who enjoy it. We do not see how any person could dislike selling honey amongst the farming community, in districts where honey is not produced. There are very many places where the people would gladly welcome a honey peddler. If bee-keepers, who have a surplus stock on hand this year would hunt up these places and appoint agents to dispose of their honey, it would be a good thing for our market, instead of rushing it all into the cities and towns at lower rates. But the "peddling" for next season must be done in England. For this purpose we must secure honey of the very best quality to enable us to establish a market in Britain, which will always be open to us. The superiority of Canadian honey is well known, and we trust every bee-keeper will remember this when sending honey, and endeavor to keep up the reputation.