

Truly, if the judgment is given against Mr. Harrison, the future outlook is not very cheering, but the fact that the learned judge has in the face of the decision of the jury, reserved the case for the argument of the full court, proves that he (the judge) sees that their decision in this case must form a precedent which will have a serious effect, if against us, on the pursuit of bee-keeping. As we understand it reserving it in this way means that when the decision is given, nothing short of an appeal to the Supreme Court will give us any change—as the full court is equal to passing the court of appeal. We may, however, be wrong. We have written Mr. Harrison for full particulars.

WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK?

AS AN observer interested to a very slight extent, the above question is naturally before my mind. It would be needless to propound such a question to others were it not that the future is, so to speak, of our own making. As we sow, so shall we reap.

In the past few years it seems to have been the business of writers and supply dealers, with very rare exceptions, to paint bee-keeping in its most rosy colours, to keep in a very subordinate position the many drawbacks of the pursuit, and this all with the object largely, and largely also with the result, of inducing many to leave other occupations to take to that. Many of those who have taken up bee-keeping have found their experience very disappointing and their hopes far from realized, and have forsaken, or are eagerly desiring the opportunity to forsake the calling. It is a very difficult thing, however, to find a purchaser for eighty or 100 colonies of bees with the other plant of an apiary; and with honey selling to the dealer at from eight cents, those bee-keepers who are in and cannot get out of the business must be exercising an amount of economy of which they scarcely dreamed two or three years ago.

On the one hand we find the man who cannot dispose of his crop, on the other, the man who says he could wish he had only two or three stocks instead of sixty or seventy; and again we call at yards where heretofore the fresh paint and general tidiness bespoke good heart and prosperity, and find now no fresh traces of the paint brush, but a worn-out and old-time look around things generally, as though the once buoyant hopes were being sadly blighted, and the old age of ambition had come, the premon-

itory shadow of dissolution being cast in gloom before it.

Should a market in Great Britain be opened up through the Kensington Exhibition (according to the expectation of some and the hope, no doubt, of many,) a temporary relief would be afforded, but can we always hope to ship our comb honey such a distance without personal supervision on the way, in the expectation that despite the many changes in transit, it will reach its destination in good shape, even if a market is established?

In the meantime, considering the prices of honey, bees and queens, it would look as though the goose which was a short time ago believed to be laying the golden egg was now very sickly indeed, and that her laying was postponed indefinitely.

Let me close by asking, shall we look for the business being established on a sound and substantial basis; shall we look for a recovery from the effects of the past policy; or shall we anticipate an uncertain future, with an excessive production, and a breaking of prices by an unhealthy and unbecoming scramble for the markets immediately on the crop being harvested? *What is the outlook?* Shall those who have influence use it, as heretofore, to plant a golden future for the bee-keeper, and hold out strong temptations to the uninitiated to engage in his calling? Shall we thus sow, and reap as we have done, or shall we allow the bare facts of the pursuit to speak for themselves, and let those who join the occupation bear alone the responsibility while they have any way to take the consequences?

H. B.

The above article we clip from the *Rural Canadian*, and we do so because we can see that comments on it will be of value to the pursuit, and we can make it the text of a short sermon. Supply dealers come in for a share of criticism and as it is probable that Mr. Jones, the editor of this JOURNAL has exerted as much influence in the bee-keeping world, especially in Canada, (and this article is Canadian) as any other one person, it may be of interest to look at the facts for a time. We will not for one moment question the assertion that bee-keeping may have been painted "in its most rosy colors" possibly in some cases too much so, but almost anyone will admit that there were good reasons for appropriating the "paint" to that purpose. Bee-keeping then *was* a business in which there was much pro-