

to engage in this business in a small way, or who wish to invest more capital in it. Take any of the industries of the world, and see if what I say is not correct; then why should an exception be made in bee-keeping? If one bee-keeper, who has to buy his foundation, would save 20 per cent., then it is just that much loss to the other who has it to sell. Let each start on an equal footing in this, and then if one can sell his product for less than the other, it will not be because his "stock in trade" has cost him less. If the duty is removed on wax then colonies of bees must necessarily be cheaper. This would mitigate against those who should now be reaping the reward for their labor and capital invested, who have bees for sale. Mr. Brown infers that being a druggist I am particularly interested, as I "deal in wax." It is because of this I am able to speak more positively, and am better able to realize that bee-keepers are not the only ones who use wax, that there is considerable wax that never sees the foundation mill, consequently bee-keepers are those who should be most interested in good prices and quick sales. It is much more satisfactory to have a good demand for this by-product in bee culture than to have it a drug on the market. Mr. Brown seems very much surprised that any bee-keeper should have wax to sell, and wishes me "luck" in running my apiary to produce wax. My assertions were based upon the idea that a colony of bees run for extracted honey, would produce on an average one pound of wax. I have noticed since the 'estimate of California's business in sweets' given by Mr. J. P. Pleasant in this *Journal* on page 142, that the amount of honey to the colony was 200 lbs., and the wax 5 lbs. So if Mr. Brown's bees average only 50 lbs., he should have $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of wax, and yet according to Mr. Brown's theory a practical bee-keeper has never any wax to sell, and then makes the assertion that "all the bee-keepers in the Dominion would suffer." He seems to have entirely overlooked what Mr. J. C. Thom has to say on this subject, as given on page 117 of the *Journal*, wherein he says, "it is just possible if Mr. Brown ever becomes an extensive bee-keeper, he may see the day when he will have beeswax to sell, and have reason to be thankful that the duty was neglected by this committee." Mr. Brown seems not to have noticed that a correspondent ventures to reprove the Editor because he favored the removal of this duty, being a foundation maker, and goes on to give Mr. Jones' apathy as an example, where the supply dealer and the bee-keeper's interest are frequently at variance. The above is a good illustration of the unenvia-

ble position of him who has undertaken the publication of the *CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL*. I could multiply words to prove my position, and to show Mr. Brown I am not the only bee-keeper who is of the opinion that it would not be in the interest of "all the bee-keepers in the Dominion" were the duty removed, but the above will suffice.

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Brussels, Ont.

Wax is about as plentiful, and as cheap now in some localities as it is on the other side, so the removal of duty would be very little benefit, if you go upon the principle of "the greatest amount of good to the largest number."

FOR THE C. B. J.

OUR HONEY MARKET.

MUCH has been said of late in Conventions, assembled as well as privately, by bee-keepers, who make a business more or less of honey producing, of the low prices now obtainable for honey.

The cause of this I have seen attributed 1st, to the sale of small lots of honey by farmers who do not realize that it has a market value, and 2nd, to the low prices of all other produce at present.

These causes can hardly be assumed without question, as it is now well known that nearly 75 per cent. of the bees alive in the fall of 1884 perished in the severe weather of the following winter. The owners of stocks that gave no care to them, suffering in even larger proportion, and these were the persons who were accused of glutting the market. Add to this that the summer of 1885 was a very unfavorable honey season, and it would seem as if the honey market of Canada, during the winter of 1885-6, should have been in such an active state that producers had no reason to anticipate any striking decline in prices.

As a fact many producers, having a range of customers to supply, did not find it very difficult to make sales at about the prices of former years. As to myself, not until I attempted to sell my last lot did I find any serious decline in prices. Upon further inquiry I found this was caused by Messrs. Emigh and Orvis, two of our largest producers, independently and almost simultaneously placing comb honey in quantity on the market at 15c. per pound. Merchants previously to this had been giving 18c. throughout the season and in some cases more. I trust these gentlemen, whose names I mention, will not for one moment imagine that I am disputing their right to sell their productions for whatever price they choose to name, but I would ask are