

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

OUR "PAPER"—THE O.B.K.A. "ORGAN."

SIRS—Your issue of the 4th inst., is to hand brim full of good things, as is its wont. Mr. Pringle discusses "the organ question" at length, Prof. Cook furnishes a valuable and timely paper touching on many points of interest to bee-keepers. Your confrere over the way gives you a bit of his mind on the title of your paper. You made a grand mistake when you named it the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. Did you not know that there was a "Bee Journal" published in the most savoury smelling city of the Great United States whose proprietor claims the exclusive right to the title for his paper. Sensible man! He is not ignorant of the fact that "there is something in a name." Have not the patent medicine men discovered this long ago? And have they not rushed with "doubled neve" at all and sundry who dare strike a label bearing anything approaching the title of their own nostrums? Why did you so far forget the sensitive nature of your neighbour on this matter? You might have set the Lion and the Eagle pawing and clawing one another by your rashness, you thoughtless man. Maybe you committed the rash act from worthy motives for imitation is said to be the sincerest kind of flattery. If so you missed the mark this time for it is averred that your flattery—or the term journal which?—has cost somebody several thousand dollars. Flattery that carries with it such results is not usually appreciated. You might as well have been accommodating and called your paper the "Freezeland Apiarist," then everybody would have known it was published somewhere away up amid the eternal snows of Canada. It is true a man may commit a wrong without knowing it but if the wrong be pointed out and persisted in there is little hope of the wrong-doer and if it be repeated he is doubly guilty, therefore be advised, and if a son and heir should be born to you in the near future don't for the life of you have him baptised "Thomas G.," for that name is the vested right of another, and therefore not yours to use.

I quite agree with Mr. Pringle that an "official organ" is no longer needed by the O.B.K.A. The C. B. J. supplies all its members need as far as a medium of communication is concerned. I would regret to see the journal become the organ of any man or set of men. I prefer to see it remain what it is: an independent bee-paper—beg your pardon, BEE JOURNAL, giving to its patrons value for their money and prospering on its own merits; but I do not agree with him that no inducement such as referred to should be offered to members. It is true bee-keepers "should not

be babies and require taffy" to induce them to remain or become members of a fraternal association, the object of which is to advance their own interests, but without attending the conventions little personal benefit can result, except such as is common to all readers of the public prints; and it is a well-known fact that not a tithe of the members in former years have attended the society's meetings. Men should not be looked upon as babies because they expect or accept an inducement to identify themselves with an organisation having for its object the general good of the class to which they themselves belong. Where there is no direct personal advantage an inducement such as that under consideration is one of the means very generally employed by such societies to secure and hold together their membership. Mr. Pringle will, I think, admit that the members of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association are in no sense of the word "babies," yet they accept with a good deal of satisfaction the taffy they annually receive in the shape of trees, shrubs or flowers by right of their membership and a *quid pro quo* for the fee they pay. I believe it is frankly admitted by the officers of the Association that the full list of members could not be maintained if some such inducement were not held out. If this Association, with a much greater number of people interested in their work than the Bee-Keepers' Association can hope to have for many a day, find it expedient to offer some special inducement in order to the maintenance of a good list of members, it is an absolute necessity on our part to do the same thing if we would save the Association from decay and death. Just what the discount, bonus or taffy should be is a point upon which different people may be expected to hold different views. In my opinion it should be something useful to beginners and small bee-keepers, as they are largely in the majority—professionals will have already nearly everything that can be offered, and will doubtless remain members under any circumstances.

R. MCKNIGHT.

Owen Sound, Nov. 11th, 1885.

We were not aware that the words "Bee" "Journal," or "Bee Journal" were patented, copy-righted, or "owned" by any one else or we should not have "christened" our "paper" by the name we did. We had no idea or intention of injuring anyone, and, if any injury has been done, we are quite sure that it is not chargeable to the name, but to the excellent contents of our JOURNAL