

of a learner, I have not come here specially to speak about honey from a practical standpoint. From what I remember of the subject the English analysts have said that the percentage of water in honey is subject to certain fluctuations, within certain small limits, and that usually the percentage of water in genuine honey varies between eighteen and twenty per cent., but that there have been examples in which the water has far exceeded that; I believe there are genuine honeys with as much as twenty-five per cent. of water. So that I presume what Mr. Holtermann is speaking of and what he wants legislation for is to prohibit the percentage of water when it exceeds the latter quantity, twenty-five per cent., to bring the matter to figures; that is what the whole thing seems to me to come down to, and if twenty-five per cent. is the outside limit, and I should judge so because I know in England that twenty per cent. is looked upon as a very large percentage of water in honey, you will be quite safe in putting it at twenty-five per cent. and considering that honey containing more than that would be accounted adulterated. The law is an adulteration law, and when the law comes to treat of it it will call it an adulteration because it could not treat of it unless it did designate it as such; I think that is the reading of all designating laws, no matter whether it is something that is not taken out, or something that is added whether for the purpose of getting additional weight or whether it is anything that is injurious to the health; they call all those things adulterations under the law.

Mr. Frith—I understand from certain experiments which were made at Ottawa that the percentage ranges from twelve to thirty per cent.

Professor Shutt—We have done nothing with regard to estimating the percentage of water in honey.

The President—The Inland Revenue Department conducted the test.

Professor Shutt—When I quoted those figures, eighteen to twenty per cent., I said those were the limits usually of the percentage of water in honey; that might be called the average per cent., but there was some honey that went as high as twenty-five per cent.

Mr. Frith—There does seem to be some difficulties in regard to fixing the percentage of water: as Mr. Hall has said, he finds some honey with a great deal more water or very much thinner, the consistency is not as great; and as another speaker suggested, if we commence to legislate along this line perhaps it may augment ideas

which are now existing against honey in the way of adulteration; and it does seem to me it would be very hard or somewhat difficult for bee-keepers' throughout the country, especially small bee-keepers'. They would have to have this honey analysed in order to find the specific gravity before they could sell it. I think there was something done along this line, or was talked of being done in the butter business. If there was anything done in regard to the butter business we might find out from them how it works.

Mr. R. F. Holtermann—I am very much pleased to have heard Professor Shutt's remarks. I think from his remarks he is a practical chemist and a good man. I think from the view he has expressed that there will be no difficulty in fixing a percentage which would be entirely safe.

Now, in regard to the idea that we might arouse certain suspicions in the consumers' minds, I think that can be said of every piece of useful legislation, especially every Act in connection with adulteration, and more than that, that is what we want to do, gentlemen. We want to arouse the consumer's ideas upon the subject. I spoke at the Pure Food Exposition in Toronto the other day, and I made a point of telling them exactly how to judge good honey, and the sooner we can do that the sooner we will bring bee-keeping down upon that basis so that bee-keepers' must produce a good article to get rid of it, and the sooner will we have an article sold upon its merits, and when a man produces a good article he is going to get the benefit of it, and when a man tries to sell a poor article to a consumer he will get the benefit of that. It appears to me it is quite within the bounds of practicability, and, let us fix that percentage upon such a basis that the honest bee-keeper, the man who is anxious to produce a well-ripened product will not need to fear the Act one particle, and the rest will have to come to time.

(To be continued.)

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