

# **Brock vs. Patterson.**

As was announced in our last issue, the bee case of Brock vs. Patterson was heard at the Division Court, Lynden, before Judge Monck, on March 7th, Brock suing Patterson for \$60.00 damages. Mr. J. H. Long, of Hamilton, acting for the plaintiff, and Mr. G. L. Staunton, K. C. for the defendant. The court house was crowded to excess and many bee-keepers from different parts of the country were present watching the case with interest.

In stating his case Mr. Brock swore that he owned a house and a half-acre lot west of Mr. R. L. Patterson, who also owned a house and a half-acre lot, and kept about 120 hives of bees. Mr. Patterson's bees had been very troublesome to himself and family. His mother and sister were afraid to go outside of the house on account of them, and especially at farming time. He could not cultivate his lot and had to give up fruit raising, not only on account of their stinging the pickers, but through their sucking the juices of the fruit and destroying the berries. He believed that he could not sell the property if he wanted to, on account of Mr. Patterson's bees. His horse had been stung, and injured through fear of the bees. The family washing could not hang out to dry without being stung by their excrement. The porch of his house was also defiled, and when the rains came this matter was washed off into the cistern, rendering the water filthy and unfit for use. His

wood pile too was affected, he could not get anyone to saw his wood and sometimes the bees would crawl on the pieces and be carried into the house where they would sting and annoy.

Mr. Brock's mother and brother and sisters and a number of others, mostly relations, witnessed for the plaintiff. Mrs. Brock swore having had to wash the clothes three times. One of the sisters declared she had to leave home on account of the bees. On cross-examination it came out that this lady got married on leaving home and the lawyer was very much interested to know how great a part the bees had played in that event.

Taking the evidence all through the complaints were very much overdrawn, and in some points ridiculous.

In the defence Mr. Patterson swore that he had kept bees on his property for 24 or 25 years. They were the Italian breed and were very gentle. He had no complaints from any of his neighbors except the Brock family. He, too, kept a horse and the horse often grazed among the hives without being molested. So far as the soiling of clothes was concerned, this would only be possible in their first flight in early spring.

Mr. Ed. Dickenson, North Glanford, witnessing for the defence said that he kept 150 colonies at his house and they were not at all troublesome either to himself or his neighbors, and that bees are essential to the fertilization of blossoms, and Italians are particularly gentle.