

Different persons would make different selections, but the plan is a good one, and one which will be of great service to any who will follow it out.

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PRICE OF HONEY.

EXTRACTED AND COMB HONEY AT THE SAME PRICE.

ON page 20 occur the following words: "If there be anything to complain of, it was the action of those who first used the honey-extractor, in placing the price of liquid honey at a less amount than was asked for honey in the comb, with wood, wax and glass weighed up to the buyer! It would be a very difficult matter now to raise the price of the clean, *net*, liquid article—but at the outset it would have been an easy matter to have obtained a larger price for it than for that in the comb."

I produce comb honey nearly altogether, the higher price being obtained for it being my reason, perhaps coupled with the fact that for years I have made a special study of producing comb honey. But when you come right down to the intrinsic value of honey as an article of food, I think that I must always admit that the same honey is to me better out of the comb than in it. In fact I always prefer for my own eating extracted honey, if it is equal in quality to that in the comb, and I generally produce enough extracted honey so that I can have it on the table three times a day.

If I remember rightly, I have seen the ground taken that chewing the comb gives a piquancy of flavor, or a something that is wanting in the extracted. Take a nice section of honey, cut away half of it and get the free honey from it, either by running it through the extractor, or by pressing it out with a knife. Now you have a half section of honey in the comb, and the clear honey from the other half. If I eat a piece of the comb honey of the size of a hickory-nut, and then with a spoon eat the same quantity of the clear honey, I must say that there is something more satisfactory about the comb honey. What is it? It can hardly be a difference in the honey, for taking the honey out of the comb could not change its quality.

It is claimed that the wax gives the extra flavor. But the wax can give no flavor that it does not possess, and if the wax is chewed alone it has scarcely any flavor, certainly nothing remarkably fine. I cannot think any improved flavor is given by the wax. I think that the difference arises from the fact that in the one

case the honey is chewed, and in the other it is not; or, if you please, the comb honey is eaten, and the clear honey is drank. The act of chewing excites the flow of the secretions of the mouth, and this increases the pleasure of the taste.

When I have been extracting honey, I have found that nearly every one who happened to be present, liked to chew the cappings, and a good many of them thought the flavor better than that of honey in any other form. I think it was simply because there was more chewing.

I think, therefore, we must admit that it is pleasanter to eat the comb honey than to take the same amount of clear honey without chewing. But do we usually use the clear honey without chewing? Of course not, and the question is, not which tastes better eaten alone, but which tastes better eaten with bread or some other article of food. In that case one kind gets as much chewing as the other, and I doubt whether the advocates of the wax flavor can tell whether they are eating comb honey or extracted honey on their bread, except as they can *feel* the wax in the mouth. The wax is indigestible, and as ordinarily eaten I know of no advantage in having it present.

So I come back to where I started, that if the quality be the same in each case, I prefer extracted honey to comb honey. But that if comes in the case, and "there's the rub." In the majority of cases, the quality of extracted honey is *not* equal to that of comb, and indeed you cannot expect it to be, so long as raw nectar is extracted with the honey, and then no pains taken to ripen or improve it. I suspect that if the quality of extracted honey were always what it should be, that comb honey would be, to a large extent driven out of the market.

Then why should extracted honey command any lower price than comb? Some succeed in getting the same price for it, and it is the thought of a good many that it never should have been sold for any less price than comb honey. If a wrong has been done, is it too late to right it? Suppose we place the same price on each by raising the price of extracted and lowering the price of comb. My friends, the thing wouldn't work. The great law of supply and demand controls the honey market just as it does every other market. You will never again buy a buffalo-robe for as low price as formerly, because the supply has almost ceased. Some kinds of fur that formerly sold a for high price, although in no greater supply than formerly, bring a low price because fashion has forbidden their use, and demand has ceased.