

honey is now sold in this city for five to sixteen per lb. to the consumers. Two-thirds of the housekeepers say they do not use honey, this is my experience in what I have sold here. I believe honey needs advertising in some way to educate people to use it. If the consumers know that they are getting pure clover honey they will pay twelve to sixteen cents per lb. But the producer must adhere to prices of the Honey Exchange—well up, then gives the dealer three to four cents per lb. lower. That will give the dealer more profit without adulterating it, and encourage him to sell more of it. Those prices established will need to be adhered to by all interested. This might give general satisfaction in a business way without fluctuating prices or having "bargain days." The producer will make more out of what he retails and the Honey Exchange will have some margin to do business on. All producers of honey should be canvassed for membership if possible.

Yours respectfully,
Dr. H. McLAREN.

Toronto Ont.

A Letter From South Africa.

Editor C. B. J.,—

The year 1902 can not be accorded as a success with the bees, being one of disappointments so far as quantity of honey was concerned although the quality of some was above the average.

One of the drawbacks here is the mixed source of honey flow, as on holding up a comb you can see the cells of dark stuff intermixed with the pale colour, and it is extraordinary how little it takes to spoil the colour. Some

of the honey too has a most disagreeable flavor reminding me of "siegel's syrup" [if this is libellous erase it] and some is very bitter, there is also some that I believe comes from a kind of aloe that grows amongst dry rocky krantz that the natives say is poisonous and I have known cases of people being very unwell after eating it. I should doubt very much its being actually poisonous but natives call anything that has a violent effect on them a poison as distinct from a medicine. However I am glad there is none about here.

A large beetle has troubled me greatly lately it is from one to one and a half inches long and it is astonishing how it can force its way into the hive, it has been identified as rejoicing in the name of "Rhizoplalyspaituberculatus" and as it feeds on larva it no doubt is after the bee grub which accounts for the hives where it is found being weak and the combs eaten away. I watched one trying to force an entrance, the bees making a good fight but apparently could not harm it.

We are now in the midst of the hot weather when bees are best left alone very little is done as they can only work in the very early morning and at evening especially after sun down.

Bee-keeping is I think making progress slowly there is a great increase in poultry and fruit farming and people are going in for small farms more than was previously the case.

The C. B. J. is always welcome and is passed around so as to afford information to as many as possible.

With best wishes for the year 1903.

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
A. C. SEWELL

Durban, Natal,
29th, January, 1903.