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The Nebraska bee-keeper. Vol 5, No. 2 February, 1894

York, Neb.: Stilson & Sons, February, 1894

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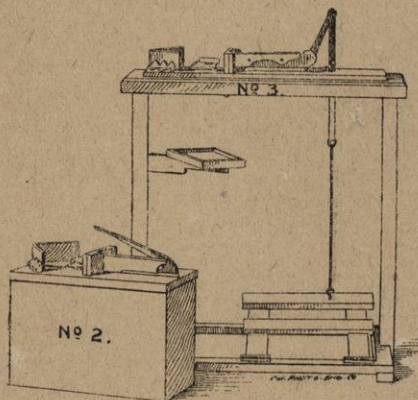
THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Vol. 5.

February, 1894.

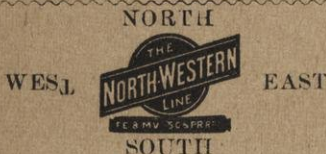
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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Vol. 5.

February, 1894.

No. 2.

Papers Prepared for the Winter Meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association,
Held at York, Nebraska, Jan. 23-24. 1894.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By S. Spellman.

President York Co. Bee-Keepers' Association.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN of the Bee Keepers' Association.—It is usual, and I believe has become the custom on occasions of this kind that some one be selected to represent the city, and to formally convey to those assembled that they are welcome. I presume that I have been selected by reason of my unfitness for the occasion. When I was requested to write or say something before this convention, I could not imagine why on earth it was, unless it was as is often at political meetings, to fill up.

I can assure you that what I don't know about the apiary business would make a very large volume. Seldom indeed do we have the opportunity to perform so pleasant a duty as to welcome your association to our city, because when we extend a welcome to you, we know that it is extended to the association that has met the stings and conquered the difficulties incident to establishing the apiary business in Nebraska. you have probably met and surmounted greater difficulties than al-

most any other industry in our state, and it is certainly gratifying to say that this industry has at last entered upon an era of prosperity and well may you feel proud of your efforts; and in conclusion, we thank you especially for the distinction you have shown us in selecting our city as the place of holding so important a meeting as Bee Keeping. We hope to become acquainted with all of you and trust that your meeting may be a most pleasant and profitable one, and that after the adjournment of this convention you may safely return to your respective homes, better informed and even more enthusiastic in beekeeping. And now in behalf of the people of York, we extend to you a most hearty welcome.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By E. Whitcomb.

Not desiring to weary you with a long address at this time, I will at once strike out to business. Reports from different parts of the state indicate that "He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," has not been unmindful of the "Little Busy Bee" snugly tucked away in winter quarters, and which, thus far are wintering finely.

I have attended and talked Bees, at two of the Farmers' Institutes held in this state during the present month, and find the people at these places enthusiastic and desirous to learn more about the apiary and to bring that knowledge into practice in connection with the varied industries of the farm.

We have almost stood agast at the strides bee-keeping has made in this state during the past eight years, yet we may look for a still greater one in the decade to come. Nebraska honey came out from the World's Fair with colors flying, and we will in the future be many thousand times repaid for the trouble and pains taken to show our product. The fact that we exhibited our honey alongside that from California, and further, that we were not invited to make a showing at the Mid-Winter Fair, carries with it a significance of which we have reason to take at least a little pride. The Nebraska honey case at the world's fair was donated to the State Agricultural Society by Commissioner General Garneau, for the use of this association and is now in the honey house on the State Fair Grounds, and will be put up ready for use at the next State Fair. I attended the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, suggesting some changes in the next premium list for Class K, Bees and Honey; one or two changes have been agreed to, but the board have a desire to cut down the list instead of increasing it, and the question of offering a premium for the best county collective exhibit in this department, is yet under advisement.

The question of establishing an Apian experimental station at the State University is being agitated and as yet we have found no opposition. Following this meeting that matter should be pushed to success. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" and this action carried into our meeting and apiaries will work wonders. No man or wo-

man has made a success in beekeeping who has not been observant, prompt, and gentle. I am indebted for many acts of personal kindness received from each individual member of this association in a greater or less degree, and for which I take this opportunity to return my sincere thanks to each and every member of this association. Go on in the advocacy of your choice and with the assurance that the poet sang wisely, who said: "A stone that keeps rolling will gather no moss."

Bee Culture in Nebraska.

By E. Kretchmer.

What can we say of its past? The experience of all present has been different, owing to different location, difference of management, and difference of seasons; hence the expression of one may radically differ from the opinion of his friend at his side. To harmonize these experiences, as presented to the writer by numerous friendly letters and personal visits, is the aim of this subject.

I hear ringing in my ears the howl of years ago, that "Nebraska is the Great American Desert;" today the great State of Nebraska stands in front rank with her sister states, furnishing the very "Desert Howlers" with bread and meat, butter and honey.

The achievements have not always been the results of great natural resources, but by a proper application of methods essential to profitable results.

Notwithstanding occasionally reported failures of honey crops, Nebraska is a great honey producing state; if it may not boast of producing honey by the ton, it enjoys a reputation for its excellent quality, especially for its enormous crops of fall honey, usually gathered from heartsease, which was attested by its awards at the World's Fair, where it received its share, excelling even those who piled honey by the ton.

Since the quality of Nebraska honey

is an established fact, let us see how the quantity may be increased. This I divide into three subdivisions. FIRST, *Care of bees against loss.*

The greatest loss reported, is from spring dwindling and starvation. To treat this subject fully would extend this paper beyond due bounds; but as "a word to the wise is sufficient," I will simply mention a few points necessary to prevent spring dwindling; deducted from personal experience in our own apiary, where not a single colony has been lost in winter or spring for five years.

To guard against sudden changes, winter in a cellar or cave; use double walled or so-called chaff hive, or make single walled hives double, by placing a winter case around them, as they furnish better protection during cold nights in spring; encourage brood rearing late in fall by stimulative feeding; brood will be reared later in a double walled hive than in a single walled hive. Supply the bees in early spring with rye flour, shorts, or buckwheat flour, and if a little ground oil cake is added, it will stimulate brood rearing amazingly; supply the bees regularly with warm, clean water in the apiary; nurse bees which are compelled to go great distances for COLD water, are usually overcome by the cold of the water within and the weather, and only few return. When raising brood rapidly, great quantities of honey are consumed and unless you FEED regularly, the colony may starve. Feeding, yes feeding is the safe guard to bridge over the occasional dry spells with no forage, and such fed colonies will pay a larger per cent for food and care bestowed on them than any other farm stock. Try it systematically and be convinced.

I have reports before me from several, who, even last season obtained 120 lbs of choice comb honey per colony, 20 lbs of honey paid for all the feeding and extra care, whilst his neighbor, who

did not feed obtained less than 20 lbs. Verily it pays to feed; how much profit would you expect from your horses, if you neglected them for weeks and months at a time; and yet bees pay a greater per cent of profit for money and time bestowed, even should you get but one crop in three years.

SECOND, *More Apiaries.*

I have traveled across the state in several directions, and seen miles of honey producing plants, containing tons of honey and not a bee to gather it. What a waste! yet its owner toiled hard for days and weeks to earn money wherewith to buy health destroying sweets, mis-named syrup. Should not every farmer keep enough bees to supply his family with the most delicious, most healthful and nourishing sweets, honey? and should more be raised to supply the entire home market. There is ready sale for all Nebraska's honey in our commercial centres, and to the bee keeper who is alert to use the latest improvements for "short cuts" in the production of honey. Such sales are at prices highly remunerative, when compared with the cost of production of other articles of agriculture.

THIRD, *Cultivating or encouraging honey producing plants.*

Twenty-five years ago it was almost impossible to raise any kind of clover in South-western Iowa, but now if there is any crop that grows more readily than another it is clover; even alfalfa, that five years ago was considered a failure; it grows readily now on any ground having a porous sub soil; therefore, if in the past you have failed to raise clover, one of the best honey producing plants try it again; the road sides that are now producing the seeds that fill your fields with obnoxious weeds, can be replaced with white clover; sweet clover or Bokara is a good honey plant, yielding a small amount of honey from spring until fall; Alsylke

clover, a better field crop than red clover for either hay or grazing, yields an abundance of delicious honey, and is now grown by hundreds of farmers all over the state, unless it is the extreme west.

Alfalfa, one of the best hay producing plants that can be cultivated does well in numerous places where an effort has been made to cultivate it. A bee-keeper near Orleans, Neb. reports over 100 lbs of comb honey per colony from alfalfa, the past season. Buckwheat, can be raised after rye or winter wheat, or on new ground as a fall crop. The old kinds frequently blight, but the Japanese variety is of a heavier growth with deep penetrating roots and usually yields a remunerative crop of grain besides; it yields a crop of honey early in the morning. We have numerous reports where an acre of buckwheat yielded as much as 300 lbs of honey per acre.

Short cuts in Beekeeping. The bee-keeper who manages two colonies of bees, with the labor heretofore bestowed on one colony, doubles his profits.

To enumerate and explain all of the latest, practical short cuts would require a small pamphlet, but I will name a few only.

First of all use appliances or implements that will permit you to systematize your work, and with which all manipulation can be done in the shortest possible time. Let us begin with the hive; get rid of brace combs and burr combs, so that you can pick off a super without breaking honey or incite robbing; to do this use only frame tops 1 1-16 inch wide, spaced $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches from center to center, and use not over $\frac{1}{4}$ in. space between frame tops and super. Use a bee escape to remove bees from supers; I can adjust 40 in an hour, and if done in the evening, the bees are usually out in the morning. Smoking and brushing them out would require each 20 minutes at least. Save scraping sec-

tions after being filled, by using supers that protect the sections and clamps them close so that but little, if any bee glue can be deposited; or in other words discard T rails and use correctly made scalloped slats to support the sections.

Get over the habit of handling frames or combs so much; we have colonies in alternating hives in which not a comb has been moved for years, yet they received all the manipulation that could benefit the bees; with this hive you do not have lift off the super and tear out the frames one by one, but we simply open the brood chamber in the center like opening a book laying on its side, and a glance up or down, conveys to us the condition of the colony

This hive, although manufactured by us is not patented and is as much your property as mine; and wherever thoroughly tried by practical bee keepers, it has been adopted as the most practical hive for the greatest amount of honey with the least labor.

Moving bees to better Pastures. The frames should be fixed or stationary in the hive, and the several parts of the hive held in place with the hive hooks, and the combs built in wired frames; when thus arranged they can be loaded up for hauling, at a minutes preparation to some better pasture. A neighbor took as many as he could load on a wagon and hauled them two miles, three hours work, to a pasture covered with white clover, and as a result obtained 17 lbs. per colony more than his bees left in the home apiery, although the bees at home worked on that same pasture, yet they consumed valuable time going a greater distance, and had to carry their load against a prevailing south wind. Heretofore there has been great objections to out apiaries or bees away from home, on account of great losses of swarms; but now, I think that difficulty has been solved, where an increase of swarms is not objectional, the

use of a Champion Swarm Hiver, (not patented) saves every swarm; or where all honey and no swarms are desired, the Bee Controller solves that problem.

And now friends, before closing, let me summarize: Get out of the old rut, and fall in line with the progressive procession; discard your narrow, thin topped brood frames, and use other "short cut" appliances; don't neglect to feed your bees systematically, and the net profits of the apiary will be greatly increased. Red Oak, Ia.

Bee Culture in Nemaha County.

By L. L. Allspaugh.

Nemaha County is situated in the south eastern part of the state and on the Missouri river, and is one of the most productive counties in the state, although apiculture is away behind the times alongside other industries of our county, although it has advanced in the last five years more than fifty per cent. Five years ago I did not know of but one man that used the movable frame hive, though I did know every bee man in the county at that time, nor do I now, perhaps there were more of them used. I have been transferring bees every spring, from 50 to 75 colonies each year, besides others doing the same work, and lots of men doing their own work. I have sold in this time nearly one thousand hives; two thirds, at least are used in this county. When I commenced apiculture, my friends made all manner of fun at me and said I could not make anything at that, not even a living. Well, I am still living; have not got rich enough yet to start a First National Bank, neither do I ever expect to, but do intend to hold on to apiculture. While it has been very discouraging this last season, I still intend to push the good work on and look to its best interest. There are too many bee men in this county that have bees, that are not deeply enough interested in apiculture. There is too much bee

culture practiced nowadays by looking at the hive on the outside instead of inside. Inside, gentlemen, is the interesting place. Come, wake up to scientific bee culture, for there is profit in it as well as pleasure. We have some men, I am sorry to say, that know all about bee culture, and I doubt very much if they ever saw inside a brood nest; we have too many of that kind of bee men, and they are the most disagreeable men to deal with; they have climbed to the top round of the ladder and there they sit and growl and complain because those bees do not pay them better. With this I will close and say that I am determined to meet the State Association at the next meeting, if I keep my health. I very much regret that I cannot be with you.

Nemaha Co. Bee Crank.

Dependence of Apiculture and Horticulture.

By G. M. Whitford.

This subject was assigned by the secretary, with the intention of showing the relation or dependence of beekeeping and fruit growing upon each other. Nature intended that these branches of agriculture should work together in harmony, and why should they not? they are dependent, to a certain extent, upon each other, the one is always benefited by the other.

Nature depends upon winds and winged insects to carry pollen from one plant or blossom to another.

The winds are uncertain, they may blow from the wrong direction or not at all. Of insects, honey bees are the only ones numerous enough, at the proper time to be of service in carrying pollen. Nature has placed at the bottom of each blossom a small quantity of nectar to attract the insect. The bee, eager to obtain the drop of honey, brushes past that part of the blossom bearing pollen, becomes dusted with it, and after getting the drop of honey, goes to other blossoms, receiving more

pollen, leaving some, thoroughly distributes it and insures a full crop as far as fertilization is concerned; other causes may destroy the fruit, after perfect pollination.

We have noticed that if the weather is cold and cloudy, during the time different fruit is in bloom, the crop will be a partial if not an entire failure.

Fruit growers are fast beginning to realize the importance of the work done by bees in the successful pollination of blossoms.

However there are those, who have not studied the laws of nature, in this direction, who claim that bees injure fruit; that these charges are false is easily proven, by studying the nature of the bee and blossom.

June 1st 1885, Prof. Riley appointed Prof. McLain, a special agent of apiculture, of the Division of Entomology of the United States. The following is taken from Prof. McLain's report in regard to a test made to learn whether or not bees injure fruit.

Hives of bees were confined to a building, made bee proof, by enclosing the open sides, with wire cloth. Plates of grapes, peaches, and plums, varying from from green to dead ripe, were placed on shelves in this enclosure.

The bees were then deprived of stores and left with the exposed fruit as their only relief from hunger thirst and starvation. They visited the fruit daily in large numbers, examining every part of the fruit, without breaking the skin of any of the kinds in the enclosure. The test lasted 25 days.

In an experiment a year later, to test the capacity of bees to injure fruit, the professor confined two colonies of Italian bees, two of Hybrids, and two of Syrian, in a house and endeavored, by heat, to bring about the conditions of a severe drouth. He says: The bees were repeatedly brought to the stages of hunger, thirst and starvation, the test continuing for 40 days. I obtained thirteen varieties of choice grapes, and

every inducement and opportunity was afforded the bees to appease their hunger and thirst by attacking the fruit which was placed before them. Mark this; some of the bunches of grapes were dipped in syrup and hung in the hives between the combs, some placed before the hives on plates, and grapes were suspended in clusters from the posts and rafters; the bees lapped and sucked all the syrup from the grapes leaving them smooth. They daily visited the grapes in great numbers, and took advantage of every opening at the stem, appropriating to their use every drop of juice, but they made no attempt to tear the grape. I punctured the skins of grapes of all kinds by passing needles of various sizes through the grapes, and placing them before the bees. The amount of juice taken was in proportion to the opening in the grape. Grapes so prepared, without exception lay before the hives until dried up. He further states, that clusters of sound grapes which he hung in hives with strong colonies, for fifteen days, remained sound and unbroken at the end of the time. The professor ends his report by saying: During the past season I made many visits to vineyards and my observation and experience with bees in confinement, and those having free access to vineyards, furnish abundant proof to convince me that bees do not and cannot under any circumstances injure sound fruit.

While the professor's reports are conclusive evidence that bees cannot injure sound fruit, they may during a dry fall, when blossoms are scarce, work to some extent upon grapes that have burst from being very ripe, or have been torn by birds, wasps or other insects. Many instances are recorded where orchards and vineyards have been planted, but have failed to produce fruit until bees were brought into the neighborhood. All kinds of fruit will yield much larger crops of more perfect fruit in localities, where they

are, than where there are no bees kept, and some kinds such as strawberries, plums, and cherries will hardly bear without the presence of bees.

Attempts at growing small fruit and vegetables under glass resulted in failure until bees were placed in the green houses.

In some parts of the country fruit growers have been oppressive to beekeepers in the extreme. A short time ago fruit growers of California went so far as to destroy hundreds of colonies of bees, pouring coal oil over the hives of bees, then setting fire to them. In Michigan and Illinois some apiaries have been ruined by careless spraying of fruit trees while in bloom, with a poisonous solution. The object in spraying the trees is to destroy the larvae of the codling moth. The moth deposits her eggs in the small apple several days after the petals have fallen and not in the blossoms; thus to spray while the tree is in bloom, is a needless expenditure of time and money, besides destroying a large number of bees that are sure to visit the trees.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS. Nos 3, 4, 5, and 6.

No. 3. It is owing to the temperature that the hive, or the interior of the hive is kept in early spring and in the fall, the young queens will most invariably be darker than those reared during the warmer months from the same mother.

4. A slight variation in the color of the queens make no difference in their progeny, while the very dark queen reared from light strain of bees are not as good.

5. In the first place the queen is shorter lived than one reared under more favorable conditions, and the workers are liable to be short lived owing to their mother not being robust, and in consequence they are not apt to winter as well.

6. If it is Italians that are meant, there is

no difference providing the dark bees are of a dark strain of Italians. If it is the black or German bee that is meant, nearly any kind of an Italian bee is better.
Chas. White.

No. 3. Change of atmospheric conditions.

4. No.

5. The darkest colored queen was not raised under as good conditions and is somewhat impaired for usefulness and her offspring not as vigorous.

6. The light, for the above reason.

L. D. Stilson.

No. 6. Like a good many others, I was prejudiced against yellow bees and queens; but after trying them in my own yard with a dark strain that had been bred for years for working qualities, I was surprised to find they held their own. I carefully compared them and found them equally good workers, while they excelled in beauty and gentleness. I soon found that a bright yellow color did not detract from their value in other respects, and finally discarded the dark ones.

It is true that sometimes a yellow queen or colony would be inferior to some others; but again, others that were very yellow would prove very superior; by using these very yellow colonies that excelled in gentleness and working qualities to breed from, a very desirable strain has been produced, that are excelled by none; as proof of which I would offer the testimony of a large number of beekeepers who have tried the golden or five banded bees in the same yard with their old strains of dark Italians and who find that the light bees do not suffer by being compared. I, and I suppose other breeders, have letters from beekeepers, in no way interested in selling bees or queens, who have tried them as workers and are well pleased with them; if the point is established that they are equal to any as workers; their beauty and gentleness

certainly give them the lead, and we have but to note the increasing demand for yellow stock from those who are keeping bees for honey raising, as proof that they are rapidly growing in favor.

The golden Italians give very light queens; many have the abdomen yellow, tip and all; and these yellowest, lightest queens average as good as the darker ones. While many very dark queens from very dark strains are very poor ones.

In these days of "Scientific Queen Rearing," by queening all the colonies except perhaps a few wild ones, within reach, with daughters of a queen possessing all the desirable qualities, and with selected queen in the home yard, thus giving a multitude of choice drones, and then rearing queens from the very best queen from a strain of superior bees, by the best methods. We are progressing much faster toward the coming bee than was possible with the haphazard methods of a few years ago.

I have but touched on several important points in the above, but as this is my first effort for the N. B.-K. I will forbear.

J. B. Case.

More convention papers next month.

At the State Convention last fall, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Entomologist at the State University, sent the following suggestions for the consideration of the bee-keepers, and asking their co-operation to help carry out the work here suggested. How many beekeepers will send in specimens?—ED.

The Entomological Dept. of the University can be of use to the Bee Keepers Association in several directions:

1. In the study of parasites and other insect enemies of the honey bee and its products.

2. In studying the habits of wild bees and noting their relations to the hive bee.

3. In noting the relation of bees in

general and the fertilization of different plants.

4. In making certain microscopical studies of the honey bee itself, that are as yet little known.

On the other hand, the beekeeper can aid the Entomological Dept. by collecting and sending in specimens of the various wild bees that are to be found at different localities during different times of the year.

The annual meeting of the Nemaha Co. Bee Keepers Association was held at the office of L. L. Allspaugh on Jan. 27. Officers elected for the year were A. C. Leaper, Pres., E. E. Wood, V. P., A. W. Saultspaugh, Sec., and J. Gilbert Treas. Among the questions discussed was one "What can we do to create an interest among the bee keepers of our county and community?" and it was finally agreed to try the plan of meeting at the homes of different members and have actual lessons from the bee hive by some one competent to instruct, commencing with May, and an invitation to beekeepers to come prepared for both the crank and the stinger.

They also have a committee looking after their interests before the County Agricultural society regarding the premium list and a show room at the next county fair.

Bee Crank.

(The Nemaha County beekeepers are getting down to business and will be heard from later, we trust.

Beekeepers should be ready to take advantage of the honey flow when it comes, by a system of regular feeding in early spring. Don't be ready to say some man lies when he gets 100 or even 200 pounds of honey per colony, but go to work to duplicate his yield; you can't do it by reading dime novels or sitting on the street corners, but by some thorough line of work. Study for it. Don't be content any longer with only a few pounds.

→The * Nebraska * Bee-Keeper←

Published Monthly.

By

STILSON & SONS.

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Entered at the post-office at York as second class matter.

Official Organ of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association.

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York Co. Bee-Keepers Association.

Pres., S. Spellman, York.

Secretary, L. D. Stilson, York.

Next meeting at the home of S Spellman, six miles S.-W. of York. Feb. 20.

How are your bees wintering?
Ours are all o. k.

Going to the Farmers Institutes did not get this issue out on time or provide good stock to print it on either.

The State Board of Agriculture have granted the request of the bee keepers and add to the premium list for the state fair this fall, a premium for county collective exhibits in the apiary department. That says more work and a better show.

The first day of our winter meeting opened with a genuine blizzard and those of our B friends who had good fires staid by them, and only a few choice spirits greeted the officials that day. The storm passed during the night but the cold, well don't try to have the bees swarm when mercury marks 30 below zero.

However, Whitcomb talked two hours and all the rest had their say, and some good papers which we publish, so others may have a little good from them, and our meeting was over. As there were but few here to sample the "free spread" we have no fear of successful contradiction when we say, it was a bounteous one. We can reproduce the papers, but never the turkey or oratory.

The Farmers' Institutes in Nebraska this winter are better attended and a greater interest shown than in former years. The hard times in financial circles, may cause the merchant or grocer to lie awake, planning how to squeeze along, but the average farmer is getting his wits sharpened, studying how to raise better crops at a less expenditure, and, instead of sending the crude product to market, he is learning how to convert into a finished article, thereby saving railroad freight and much of the scalpers commission.

In the education of the farmer, these Institutes are doing a good work and creating a friendship and unity never before felt. The Institute work has come to stay.

With this issue we begin the publication of a Poultry Department. We do this at request of patrons interested in poultry as well as bees. This has been in contemplation several months, but were unable to secure the proper person to have the work in charge. We have now secured the aid of a careful breeder of poultry, who does not belong to the know-all family, but still knows that there is something yet to learn.

The wisdom of this move can be judged later. In this additional department no space will be taken from that heretofore devoted to bee culture, but enough pages added to accommodate the new department.

From our correspondence we rake out some more questions.

No.7—Which are best for storing surplus honey, natural or artificial swarms.

No.—8 In large apiaries which is the most profitadle, natural or artificial swarming.

No.9—In dividing does it pay to put laying queens with the queenless part.

The Nebraska Farmer, thinking to increase their grip on the reading farmers, have added a bee department to their already good paper. Glad to see it Bro. Farmer. We need more and better B literature. Talk bees and honey until we can get people to want more than two pounds of honey to the inhabitant. Then too, if Bro. Farmer raise their own honey, our show case will not suffer as bad in the future.

Is there any thing in this combination that suits you? If you are suited, send us the money and we will see that the papers are properly sent.

For \$1.25 we will send the NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER and any one of the following publications one year.

The Nebraska Farmer W.

" *Orange Judd Farmer W.*

" *Prairie Farmer W.*

" *HouseKeeper. semi monthly.*

" *Nebraska State Journal semi W.*

" *World Herald—Omaha semi W.*

The New Republic W.

" *American Bee Journal W.*

American Gardening semi M.

American Agriculturist, W. \$1 50

Farm Life m 65c

Poultry Keeper, m 85c

Poultry and Bee Journal, m 70c

Gleanings, s m 1.25

Farm & Fireside s m 85c

Should you want other papers than here quoted, let us know what you want and we will quote you prices.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Webster & Hannum, Cazenovia, N.Y.
Bone, meat, and vegetable cutters.

F. W. Mann Co., Milford, Mass., bone and meat cutters.

St. Joseph Apiary Co, St. Joseph, Mo.
Apiary goods and fixtures.

S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., dealers in Planet Jr. Cultivating goods.

U. S. Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich., dealers in seeds and garden tools.

Atlantic Small Fruit Farm and Nursery, Atlantic, Ia.

Elkhart Carriage & Harness Co. Elkhart, Ind.

Whitford Bros., Arlington, Neb., Apiarian Supplies, Bees and Queens.

Chas. White & Son, Aurora, Neb. breeders of bees and queens, also dealers in apiarian supplies.

Poultry Scratchings.

J. H. McCLATCHEY, EDITOR.

To the readers of the NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER and whom it may concern.
Greetings.

Know ye that the bees have swarmed in February, and settled in the hen house, and the poultry wish to say they are in it. Yes, strictly in it, and will be heard from through these columns regularly, for it was written that man should not live by bread alone. What then? After fulfilling the other requirements let him also eat eggs and honey, which is not bad to take,—just for health. I am in the poultry business not altogether for my health, but for what pleasure and money there is in it, for it is a pleasant sight to go out in the morning and open the poultry house door and see all kinds of fowls running, flying and pouring out to meet you, from the highly colored Partridge Cochin, weighing 12 to 15 pounds, walking as heavy as a draft horse, down to the smallest sized Bantam alighting upon your shoulder, or head, with a touch as light as a big horse fly, and much more agreeable, all singing, cackling, and crowing until you can't hear other noises, until they get their breakfast, is surely a pretty sight which any true lover of nature cannot but admire.

Then again, the other side which makes almost any business pleasant, is the profit side; do you know that the much neglected feathered tribe, when cared for, bring us a larger profit both in eggs and flesh, if sold, than any of the animals or farm products. To be sure, poultry left out exposed to a free-for-all fight for existence, will not be profitable. But our modern successess are not made in that way; then as much care should be taken in providing their diet as any other creature on the farm. This is where the money lies; they ask

no favors, but an equal chance. You say the thing is overdone now, but stop for a moment, do you not know that this country has never yet supplied itself; with eggs alone, in the month of July, 1893, there were imported into this country to the extent of 326,874 doz. valued at \$30,000; and in July of '92 imports were over 457,350 dozen valued at \$44,000; while these imports are only about one-third of what used to come before the McKinley bill imposed a tariff of five cents per dozen; now does this look like it was overdone, or is this necessary, for this country to waste as much grain as it does, or rather let it go to waste for want of hens to pick it up and convert it into eggs, and then buy nearly 327,000 dozen eggs per month. I can see no more necessity in it, than I could in importing corn, wheat, oats or any other farm product. What we farmers want to do, or should do, is to brace up, and convert our low priced wheat and other grain into meat, eggs, etc.; such a disposal of farm produce means higher prices for grains, cheaper transportation and more fertility left on the farm.

Moral.

We should not howl about manufacturers making great profit by taking advantage of every tariff protected article they manufacture, when we have the same opportunity and don't improve it; they see their opportunity and use it; we see ours and abhor it.

A dollar saved is a dollar earned. Agriculture is safer than banking, manufacturing or railwaying; there is no farmer of good intelligence and good health anywhere, who cannot make a good living for himself and family; this is as good as the majority of men are doing in any other pursuit. Only three per cent of men in other lines of business escape failure, and only about three percent of farmers fail. The man who owns a farm and sticks to it is cer-

tain of an eventful profit. There is practically no more land to be added to cultivation in the U. S. but the demand for farm produce will steadily increase with the population. This must make better prices for products, and the farmer who takes care of the poultry, the dairy cow, the garden and the apiary, finds his entire living made on a smaller portion than he can possibly do otherwise, and surely a dollar saved is a dollar earned. Let any farmer neglect this department one year, and keep book of their cost when bought, then take it from the grain crop at the close of the year, saying nothing of having everything fresh and wholesome, and see if a dollar saved is not as good as a dollar earned.

Now is the time for mating up your breeding coops for spring. First class cockerels will be scarce, soon, and command much higher prices, but don't allow that to keep you from securing a good one, if you have not done so, for it won't pay to neglect this for a trifle; because he is half of your next year's flock.

THE TURKEY.

His Place and Condition.

Delightful Turkey. Fowl of all fowls the most tender and toothsome. National bird and emblem of concentrated hopes of all Americans for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The Eagle hath usurped thy peace on our dollars, but thou hast thine own throne in our hearts. The Eagle findeth his repose in our pockets, but thou goest farther into our effections and art lodged within us. Then again the turkey is a more gentlemanly and companionable bird than the eagle; he takes his walks abroad with an air of satisfaction, which seems to say that he is fond of good company, and that even if he does mean to steal, he will do his stealing in a pleasant way; he does not put on airs as the eagle does; he lays him-

self out in style of solid industry to eat as much as possible with a view of fattening himself for market or for the Christmas feast; every mouthful he takes is for the direct benefit of his human survivors. The bird might be supposed, considering the object of his eating, to be fed as a sort of penance, nevertheless he does it as if with the most pleasant thoughts in the world.

Thy doom is sealed, all summer long thou hast been foraging on thy neighbors premises, (for no turkey was ever known to do all his eating at home) but now we will forage on thee, and it is also proper to invite your near neighbors in as they have an interest in him, and thy neck shall be twisted; many a time hast thou obeyed the summons to come to dinner, and now also shalt thou come, but it will be thy last appearance and not for thine own advantage; often hast thou stuffed thyself, and now we shall stuff thee, and then proceed to stuff ourselves with thy remains. Thou wast energetic and rapacious in thy life, gentle and resigned in thy death, and savor in thy post mortem examination and appearance for our behalf.

Overdoing the business of poultry raising need not frighten anyone,—the thing may possibly be done, but not in this generation. It will require an immense increase in poultry production to cause a glut in the market. At present market prices are very satisfactory,—fancy poultry brings easily remunerating prices, and on the whole the margin of profit is much greater than that offered by any other line of business. Honest dealers need not fear even should a glut happen, for the first to suffer will be the dishonest element whose sole occupation is to deceive the novice and denounce the reliable breeder.—Ex.

Josh Billings said: "Self made men are most alwuz apt to be a leetle too proud uv the job."

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