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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER,
YORK, NEB.

Vol. 4,

JULY, 1893,

No. 7.

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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER,

Vol. 4,

JULY, 1893,

No. 7.

World's Fair Letter,

E. Whitecomb.

Doubtless a few items relative to Nebraska's Apiarian exhibit at the Columbian Exposition would be of more than passing interest to the readers of the Bee-Keeper.

The Apiarian department at the World's Fair is located in the gallery at the extreme east end of the Agricultural building, and from which position a fine view of the Lake is to be had, and the extreme nearness of its location to the offices of the chiefs of the Department would rather indicate that Chief Buchanan intended that this was to be the sweetest portion of his department, and so it is.

There are thirteen cases for exhibition of honey arranged down the gallery, each one is twenty-five feet in length, five feet wide and stand ten feet high, and a height of six and one half feet inside. Of these New York occupies three, Colorado, Ontario, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, California, Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana each have one. It is a noticeable fact that outside of New York none of the eastern, middle, or southern States have made any attempt to exhibit in this department, which scores another point for the wild and woolly west. Do not imagine that because New York is there with a car of honey and is occupying

three cases that she has the best show. It is true that the New York Exhibit has some very nice honey, but we were able to distinguish but four varieties in the whole lot, and the dark varieties seem to have been entirely ignored by those in charge.

Many of the honey producers in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin will doubtless remember that there went out from Buffalo last fall, bids of extra gilt edged prices for strictly first-class comb honey. We do not wish to insinuate that this honey found its way to Chicago and into the New York exhibit, for the reason that everyone knows that New York is a great honey producing state and that its bee-keepers would not resort to that means in order to make a nice exhibit.

Nebraska occupies a position in about the center of the row and immediately in front of the broad stairway leading up into the east gallery. Having been first in selecting our position none better were to be had. In the arrangement of our exhibit we have sixty-six herbarian specimens of the principal honey producing plants of our state arranged on either side of the case and at the top over the balance of our exhibit. These show the botanical name, proper name, where gathered, by whom gathered, and the date they were found in blossom, and are attracting a great

deal of attention.

In either end of the case we have arranged the exhibit of beeswax, which consists of floral, art and agricultural designs in pure wax as it came from the extractor in the pure bright sunlight and under the Italian skies of our state. Between this exhibit in wax, arranged on shelving made from clear white bass-wood we have arranged alternately about thirty samples of honey produced from the plants, specimens of which are shown above. Our come honey is shown in cases holding one and two pounds, each made from clear bass-wood and having glass on either side so that not a pound of our honey is exposed to flies, dust, or air. Our entire exhibit is placed in the official catalogue of this department showing the exhibitors name, address and what he has on exhibition, and all the points deemed worthy are entered for examination and award by the jury appointed for that purpose, and with a view that the bee-keepers of Nebraska might not return home empty handed next fall. The privilege is granted of adding to this exhibit out of the crop of 1893 up to August 15th, and if we mistake not the mettle and enterprize of our bee-keepers there will be some pretty nice samples.

Quality and neatness in preparing them for exhibition goes a great deal further at Chicago than the quantity. In order to catch the eye of the visitor we are compelled to arrange our exhibit tastefully so as to cause a further examination, otherwise he passes by like the Priest and Levite of old.

By the way it is a little surprising what an interest the Ladies of America are taking in the Columbian Exposition and hundreds of them are to be seen daily with note book in hand taking down the worthy points of what they see. The American woman of to-day is preparing herself to occupy an advanced position in the world, and if the

young man of this age who spends his time on the street corners and saloons, isent carefnll he will swap places with her at the wash tub and dish pan. These are significant facts and worthy of note by our young men. The above paragraphs perhaps applies none the less to apiarian matters than to all other departments.

In conclusion we desire to say that with a liberal amount of your nicest samples we shall be able to keep just a little ahead of the procession.

Bee Items.

Bees are just rolling in the honey at present which is contrary to Sam Wilson's predictions for eastern Ohio.

Now is a food time to raise queens while the honey flow is on as it is generally claimed that better queens can be secured while the honey is plentiful.

The novice will generally succeed better by making only a limited increase each year.

Pereaps fome of the readers of the readers of the Nebraska Bee Keeper will attend the Columbian Fair at Chicago this year. Well you can find good fine furnished rooms at 28, 29th st., for 1.00 per day. This is apout half way between the fair grounds and the center of the city 100 feet east of the Wabash and Cottage Grove street car line which will carry you direct to the fair grounds or the the city. It is about seven miles to the grounds from the city.

The honey exhibit will be found in the south end of the agricultural building in the balcony.

New York has by far the most honey. The Ohio exhibit was put up by Dr. A. B. Mason in a very attractive manner, whille Nebraska has also quite an exhibit and Minnesota and other states have exhibits, many of them have none at all.

The fisheries is perhaps the most interesting of all the buildings. It is di-

vided into three parts the main building, and two wings. One of the wings to the east or south east contains nearly all kinds of fish, both salt and fresh water. It is divided into divisions, suitable for the fish, each division having from one to four kinds in it. One lot of tanks can be seen in from only one side, while the circle a little distance in from the wall can be seen into from two sides or rather you can see through it and see the people on the other side. The glass in these tanks are quite large beginning about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet from the floor and extending upwards about six feet. In the center is a basin containing all sorts of fish from little minnows up to fish $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long,

In the main building there are all the necessary supplies used in fishing dried and imitation fish, fish oils, canned fish, nets etc. In the other wing is quite a lot of fish in glass tanks and machinery in running order showing how fishing lines, nets etc., are made. The wings of the building are round, connected to the main building by massive arch work.

Every person who possibly can should spend a few days at least at the great city of Chicago. It is not near so expensive as is generally supposed; a person can room board and see the fair at a cost of from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day but by all means do not buy your dinner in the fair grounds. Take a lunch along with you from the hotel or boarding house, all eatables inside the gates are high. Water etc., are free and plenty.

If this is interesting to all, in another article I will describe the largest building on the face of the earth, "The manufactures and Liberal Art Building" The Electricity, Horticulture and others. What is written here are facts seen by myself.

THEODORE BENDER.

My Experience with a Self Hiver.

Flag Springs, Ky., June 10;—I ordered one of the Pratt self hivers this spring, to try it and see how I liked the way they worked. When I thought it was about time for some of them to swarm, I went and examined a strong colony one evening, and I found queen cells, and one capped over, and so I knew pretty well that that hive would cast a swarm the next day, providing the weather was fine. So I raised the hive off from the bottom board, and set on the bottom an empty hive, (which was the Heddon divisible brood chamber hive; in my next, I will tell how I like that hive). I say empty hive, I mean a hive filled with frames with full sheets of foundation; and then put on the self hiving board, then on top of that I set the hive of bees. And sure enough the next day out came a fine swarm and clustered for a few minutes and back through the hiver they went, just as nice as you please. In an hour or so I lifted the cover and looked in to see if they had gone up into the old part of the hive. I did not see very many bees, and I thought to myself it is going to work all right; the self hiver is the thing. Later in the evening I looked again and there were lots of bees, as if they hadn't swarmed. Then I "didn't know," as Dr. Miller says, and I concluded I had better examine the matter, as it contained a nice queen and I didn't like to lose her; so I lifted the old hive off and set it a little in the rear on a new stand. I found only a few bees under the hiver in the empty hive, perhaps a double handful, and I was afraid to look, as the bees acted like they would fly away, so I placed an entrance guard in front of the hive, and took out every frame from the old hive and shook off nearly all the bees in front of the new hive, and I didn't see the queen, so I concluded she must be in the new hive, yet I wasn't sure, so I had to wait a few days and examine

The Poultry Keeper, and the Neb. Bee-Keeper, each one year for only 85cts

both hives again to see where the queen was. She was in the new hive all right. You may think I expect that is paying rather high for the whistle, well, that is just what I think about it, too. Now whether it would have worked any better to let it be for a few days I do not know. I did not try it again as that was the only swarm I had out of over 30 colonies. Now to sum the whole matter up, I think self hivers are rather too much expense of time, labor and money. I want to sound a warning note; go slow, or better yet, is to let them all go together.

A. T. McKIBBEN.

◆ ◆ ◆
TIMELY TOPICS.

R. L. Taylor.

From the Review.

"A little house (brood nest) well filled."

We have now almost arrived at the very summit of the year. The fields are already ripening to the harvest, the point for which our labors for many months past have been preparing. Happy is he who has not to say: The laborers are few! But on account of the untoward character of the season, many will not have arrived at the swarming stage and strength. However by prompt energy, there may still be time to retrieve the situation. To accomplish this there are two principal points to which I now direct special attention: First, to increase the amount of brood to the utmost, up to the point of time beyond which eggs laid by the queen will be of little benefit except so far as they may be necessary to keep up the life of the colony, and, secondly, at time to have the brood confined in as *small a space* as possible. In this locality the best seasons of gathering honey last til about the first of August. An easy calculation makes it safe to say that any *extension* of the brood nest after the 25th of June would prove unprofitable; before that, extension may yield a profit. Before that time I se-

cure all the brood possible. To begin with, the usual warm weather of June is favorable; then I make certain that sores are plentiful and that room is given when necessary. I strengthen a weak colony with brood sometimes when safe and there is no danger of spreading disease. At this time of the year, if there should be a dearth or a period of bad weather, a little judicious feeding helps mightily. Often both the spreading of brood and feeding may be well done by inserting in the brood nest an uncapped comb of honey. But judgement must be exercised both in what is done and when it is done as well as in the amount of time expended. One must weigh his time against the possible advantage of gain in surplus. There is a limit to the amount of labor that can profitably employed in this manner. There must be a margin greater or narrower according to the value one puts on his time.

Then, secondly, it is hardly less important for the best results in the production of comb honey that the brood should be compact as possible. What is done should be done with a view to getting combs with brood *full* of brood. Breaking the cappings of the honey will conduce to this. This is important because, by confining the bees to such combs as will be almost entirely occupied by brood by the 25th of June, the surplus honey they gather *must* go into the sections where it is doubly valuable. The small number of frames into which the brood is compressed should not occasion alarm. Five L. frames may easily contain what is often spread over ten, while the former means 40 pounds of comb honey and the latter none at all; the five additional combs secure part of the possible surplus in the brood combs and convert the rest into *valueless* bees. In a poor honey season a colony confined to comb equal to that of five L. frames gave me 50 lbs. of section honey—more than twice the aver-

age of the apiary—and this though all the time was afflicted with 'foul brood.'

To meet the difficulties of this second point I find the new Heddon hive convenient. Some fill one section only of the hive with brood, others may need a little help to do even that. All such are of course confined to the one section. Others fill more than one, and others still, nearly two. By a little manipulation, every colony is confined either to one or to two sections of the hive which in either case is substantially full of brood by the 20th of June and each hive presents the same top surface for the reception of sections.

As to the time of putting on the first case of sections I follow one simple rule. When the bees are found lying above the honey board in considerable numbers, say a pint or less, they are ready for work above, and the sections go on at once. There is nothing like the incoming of nectar to expand a colony and they hardly ever lie above the honey board in the early part of the season unless there is considerable nectar to be gathered. When a second and succeeding cases should be put on depends on various circumstances. The strength of the colony, the prospective length of time before the end of the run of nectar and the amount of work done in the case last adjusted, must all be weighed in the determination of the question. On the one had the danger of loss from too much crowding, and, on the other, too many unfinished sections consequent on giving too much room, are the Scylla and Charybdis to be shunned. Early in the run a colony rather weak in bees may be allowed to nearly complete the first case before another is given; a medium one should be supplied with a second when the first is about half filled, and a strong one that crowds the first case should be furnished with a second as soon as the first is fairly started.

These are to be taken as general di-

rections if everything is favorable for a good honey flow. Each succeeding case should be placed under the last one, *i. e.*, immediately upon the honey board, until towards the probable end of the honey flow, when it is better to place it above the one that is still unfinished to make the completion of those already begun more certain. As the season advances more caution must be exercised in the adding of sections. In the height of the season, I aim to give the bees at least as many sections as they will occupy and work on, and as the end of the flow approaches I allow the space where work is to be done to become more and more contracted so that at the last there may be few sections containing honey that are not completed and fit for market. During a good season, some colonies may have completed five cases each and some only one. It will be of great assistance in forming a sound judgement in the matter of putting on sections to have regard to the condition and probable continuance of white clover, which depends largely upon the amount and frequency of the rains. One must also observe the time of the blooming of basswood and know the usual time during which it lasts in one's locality.

I am in no haste to take off the hives even finished cases of honey. They can be in no better place for the ripening of honey and there need be no fear of travel stains so long as honey is coming in and there is room lower down in unfinished sections for the bees.

It only remains to speak of swarming and the manipulation incident thereto. As a preparation I have the queens clipped, the entrance of each hive guarded by a queen trap, and a sufficient supply of hives for the reception of swarms. The hives consist each of a single section of the Heddon hive furnished with comb, or preferably, foundation, besides bottom, cover and queen excluding honey board, and are

kept in a cool place in the yard where they are convenient of access. A swarm is seen issuing; I take a hive to the spot, turn the old hive around out of its place and replace it with the new one. I then watch to see if the queen is safely in the trap. When I see her I place the trap at the entrance of the new hive and remove the sections from the old hive to the new one. In some seasons a few swarms cluster on trees but return soon. In that case, as soon as they are entering the hive rapidly I release the queen and let her run in, and replace the trap leaving it for a few days, to be certain that the swarm does not gratify a desire to abscond. If two or more swarms are out at the same time, care must be taken by the use of sheets to cover the hives, aided by a good smoker, to see that they are properly divided. When swarms are given to clustering, I entice them to do so on some convenient branch, and when the cluster is once formed, swarm after swarm will join it, so that it is an easy matter to divide them by shaking a sufficient quantity for a swarm into a basket and hiving it as in the former case. A trap is also placed at the entrance of the old hive, unless the colony is divided to save the young queens and by two or three movements in the course of a week it is brought side and side with the new hive and in a day or two it is removed to a new stand, leaving most of the field bees to join the swarm where they will be of the greatest use. The trap on the old hive prevents the absconding of after swarms and also prevents the young queen from locating her hive until it is removed, which should be done when the hive is placed on its new stand.

If the swarm issues quite early, I would not strip the old hive to such an extent of the field bees, for by removing one section of the hive in twenty-one days, when the young queen should be laying, and giving the colony

a case of sections, it should do good work in storing a surplus.

Of course, in all these matters there are details which want of space forbids my mentioning, but the thoughtful person will have no difficulty in working them out.

Lapeer, Mich.

May 23.

From the State Fair Premium List we take the following.

CLASS K.--Bees, Honey, and Apiary Goods.

E. WHITCOMB, FRIEND, Supt.

Twenty per cent of all cash premiums over two dollars awarded by the Board will be retained as entrance fees.

LOT 1.--Bees and Honey.

POINTS FOR JUDGEMENT OF HONEY.

Comb Honey: 1st, Perfection of capping, 2d, Evenness of Surface, 3d, Whiteness of capping, 4th, General appearance as to marketability. **Extracted Honey:** 1st, Cleanliness, 2d, clearness, 3d, Flavor.

1st pre. 2d pre.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Best comb basswood or white clover honey, not less than 20 pounds, crated and in single-comb sections weighing not more than 2 pounds each..... | \$10.00 | \$5.00 |
| — comb fall honey not less than 20 pounds, crated and in single-comb sections..... | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| — gallon extracted white-clover or basswood honey.... | 5.00 | 3.00 |
| — gallon extracted fall honey..... | 5.00 | 3.00 |

The above is limited to competitors producing their own honey in Nebraska during the year 1893.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Best 20 pounds granulated honey..... | \$5.00 | \$3.00 |
| — and largest display including bees, extracted, comb honey, and apiary supplies..... | 15.00 | 10.00 |
| — exhibit of brood chamber and surplus comb foundation, full to partly drawn... | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| — exhibit of apiarian supplies and implements..... | 15.00 | 10.00 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| — display of honey in marketable shape..... | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| — display of honey candy, honey sugar, and sweets by any one, in which honey is made to fill the place of sugar..... | 5.00 | 3.00 |
| — honey vinegar, not less than one-half gallon..... | 3.00 | 2.00 |
| — display of bees and queens in observatory hives, and not allowed to fly..... | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| — exhibition of extracting honey on the grounds..... | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| — honey extractor, test to be made by extracting on the grounds..... | 5.00 | 3.00 |
| — all purpose single wall hive..... | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| — all purpose chaff hive..... | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| — bee smoker..... | 1.00 | .50 |

The following is confined to exhibitors in Nebraska alone.

1st. 2nd 3rd.
pre pre. pre.

Best display of apiarian implements and supplies, including comb foundation, same full to partly drawn, and queens and bees in cages... \$10. \$5.

— report of surplus honey stored by any colony of bees during the year 1891, the amount of stores, manner of building up, handling, kind of hive used, and kind and quality stored, to be verified by owner, entries to conform with other entries of this class, and report with verification to be filed with the Superintendent not later than noon on Thursday of the fair 15 10 5

LOT 2.--Discretionary.

This lot is intended for any and all articles which may have been omitted in any of the foregoing lots in this class, and might properly have been included therein.

CLASS Q.--Special Premiums.

LOT 5.--"Nebraska Bee-Keeper's" Special Premiums, Stilson & Sons, York, Neb.

To the beekeepers from any county in Nebraska making the best exhibit of honey, bees, and apiary fixtures, or supplies at the State Fair, twenty annual subscriptions to the NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

For the second best as above, ten annual subscriptions by the same publication.

For further information apply to R. W. Furnas, Brownville, Neb.

A new candidate for support shows itself from Auburn Neb. *The Poultry and Bee Journal*, O. P. Dovel editor of the poultry department, and L. L. Allspaugh of the bee department. Success to you gentlemen.

When such bee kings as Dr. Miller and A. I. Root with their knowledge and experience report winter losses at 30 to 40 per cent, what should be expected of "weuns who don't know nothin' about keepin' bees".

From present appearances the Nebraska bee keepers are getting a move on them, as Whitcomb says space is well taken for exhibits at the State Fair this fall. Our State Fair exhibits have been getting better each year for some time past and last fall space was almost at a premium and when space is engaged this early in the season, it shows that some one is interested.

→ The Nebraska Bee-Keeper ←

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

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Devoted to Bee-Culture, Honey Production, Fruits, Flowers, Etc.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Stilson & Sons, Editors and Publishers.

One of the interesting features at the next meeting of the Neb. State Bee Keepers Association, will be the report of the contest arranged for last fall.

At the close of the last State Fair some of the exhibitors asked the question, "What to do with queens there on exhibition". It was proposed that each exhibitor take one or more of his queens there on exhibition and build up a colony in his own manner. The only conditions were that one pound of bees were to be used, and full sheets of foundation in the brood combs, and then an accurate account of all feed given them to winter on. And at the coming State Fair return the queen with a card of brood and working bees together with a written statement of his manner of building up, amount of feed given, and proceeds from the colony this season.

The contest was proposed only in the interest of finding so far as the experiment goes how best to build up late in the season and get them through the winter.

There were eleven contestants to start with, how many will show up this fall remains to be seen.

One we know will not, as we started with two, and one went dead,

under a "sealed cover", buried a foot deep in wheat chaff but with a fly entrance open on the bottom. The other if nothing happens will go to the fair this fall.

Eds. Neb. Bee-Keeper:—What has become of Chas. White? I never knew him to keep quiet so long before.

S. Spellman.

Chas. White expects to go to the World's Fair about July 10, and Gen. Whitecomb has given strict orders that Mr. White be kept quiet so as to be properly wound up for that occasion when he will turn himself loose, and if he talks section press to the heathen it will not be wondered at.

There will be a joint meeting of the York Co. Bee Keepers Association and the York Co. Horticultural Society held at the Court House in York on Wednesday July 12 at 10 o'clock. Every body interested are invited to meet with us.

Bring your lunch baskets and have a social time as well as to learn something to your benefit.

At a meeting of the Neb. State Bee Keepers Association held in Lincoln last winter there were some changes proposed in the Constitution and By Laws. Those proposed changes will be printed and a copy sent to every member before the next meeting Sept. 13th together with a voting blank so that all whether at the meeting or not may express their preference, both for officers and measures.

Owing to the dry weather the bees have not stored much honey.



How to mount Botanical Specimens.

The secret of obtaining fine specimens lies in drying them before decomposition has had time to take place, and applying as much weight as possible without injuring the more delicate portions of the plant. The specimens should remain in the press till all moisture is absorbed, which is, in most instances, about a week. In herbaceous specimens, the entire plant is easily preserved. Bulbous roots may be managed with very little trouble by sectioning the root when too bulky. Succulent plants should be immersed in boiling water before being placed in the press. Each sheet should show specimens of both flower and fruit if possible. In the case of herbs this can usually be done with one and the same specimen. When the seasons of flowering and fruiting are separated by some weeks, leaves should be pressed with each specimen, as the foliage often changes materially in appearance during that time. Where it is impossible to show the entire plant on a single sheet, the root and leaves should be shown in connection with the branches. In drying it is well to turn part of the leaves wrong side up, thus showing the appearance of both sides of the leaf; this is es-

pecially desirable in the fern family, if only one front is shown. It is better to mount two or more leaves, and in that way give the different views. Never mount more than one species on a sheet; variations of the same species may be placed together, as the violet self-heal with its freaks of blush and white. For mounting, Linnaeus used sheets of foolscap size, but that is too small for practical purposes. Most botanists prefer sheets about 12 x 17 inches. While this method protects the plant more, it adds to the bulk of the herbarium and to its cost, and on the whole it is questionable whether the advantage gained by the use of the double sheet balances that lost.—*From the American Gardening for June*

Mammoth Spring, Ark., which is claimed to be the largest spring in the world, is seventy feet deep with a diameter of nearly 200 feet. Sixty-five thousand cubic feet of water gush forth every minute, producing 1,000 horse-power.

The largest bell in the world is in the Kremlin, Moscow. Its height is 21 feet 4½ inches; its circumference 67 feet 4 inches; its weight is estimated at 443,772 hundred-weight.

Wanted.

A competent man to take charge of Bees and Queen rearing and to do some gardening. Apply with stamped envelope, giving references, stating age, wages, inclosing photograph, and any other information. GEO. A. LATIMER, Norfolk, Neb.

EVERYBODY'S LAW BOOK.

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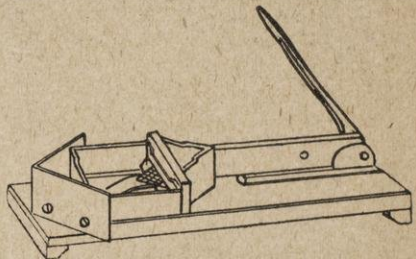
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