



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Nebraska bee-keeper. Vol 5, No. 11 November, 1894

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

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/O3H3AXWXWOHKW8O>



<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/>

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.



NOVEMBER, 1894,

THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.



VOL. 5.

YORK, NEB,

NO. 11.

50 CTS. A YEAR. . . .
STILSON & SONS, PUB.



PATENTS

Promptly secured. Trade-Marks, Copyrights and Labels registered. Twenty-five years experience. We report whether patent can be secured or not, free of charge. Our fee not due until patent is allowed. **32 page Book Free.**
H. B. WILLSON & CO., Attorneys at Law,
 Opp. U. S. Pat. Office. **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

By Return Mail Our Queens are bred for business, beauty and gentleness. Untested, June \$1.00. July to Oct 75 cts each. 6 for \$4.25. Safe arrival and Satisfaction guaranteed.

Full colonies, Nubels and bees by the pound. Dadants Foundation, Feeders, Smokers, etc. in stock. Send for free circular to **Theodore Bender,**
 18 Fulton St. **CANTON, OHIO.**

DADANT'S COMB FOUNDATION.

More than Ever. BETTER than ever. Wholesale and Retail. *500,000 lbs sold in 13 yrs. Over \$200,000 in Value.* It is The Best, and guaranteed every inch equal to sample. All dealers who have tried it have increased their trade every year. *Samples, Catalogue free to all. Send your address.* We also make a specialty of cotton and silk tulle of very best grade for bee-veils. We supply A I Root and others. Prices very low. Samples free. *Smokers, Honey Sections Extractors, Tin Pails for Honey, Etc. Instructions to Beginners with Circulars free.*

Mention this Journal.

Chas. Dadant & Son, Hamilton, Ill.

HILL'S FEEDERS AND SMOKERS.

This Smoker burns chips or hard wood without any special preparation. Very reliable. Greatest Smoking capacity. Easiest to start and cheapest because it saves time. Price of Smoker, 3 inch barrel, freight or express, each \$1.20; by Mail, \$1.40; per dozen, \$10.80.



The Best Bee-Feeder. Most convenient for the bees. No drowning or daubing bees. The feed is taken by the bees without leaving the cluster. From two to seven feeders full may be given a colony at one time which will be stored in the combs in ten or twelve hours. Feeders, One Quart. Freight or Express, Per Pair, 30c.; By Mail 40c.; Per Dozen, \$1.60. Address:

A. G. HILL, Kendallville, Ind.,

or H. P. HILL, Paola, Kan.

Below is a list of dealers who handle our goods: Chas. White, Aurora, Neb. Miller Bros. Bluffton, Mo. G. B. Lewis & Co. Watertown, Wis. Stilson & Sons, York, Neb. W. H. Bright, Mazeppa, Minn. Gregory Bros. Ottumwa, Ia. H. McK. Wilson & Co., 202 Market St., St. Louis, Mo. W. S. Bellows, Ladora, Iowa co. Ia. E. F. Quigly, Unionville, Mo. E. Kretchmer, Red Oak, Ia. Thos. G. Newman & Son, 199-203 East Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. Levering Bros., Wiotia, Cass Co, Iowa. Chicago Bee-Keepers' Supply Co. Topeka, Kan.

BBB'S If you keep BEES subscribe for the **Progressive Bee-keeper**, a journal devoted to Bees, Honey, and kindred industries. 50 cents per year. Sample copy, also a beautifully illustrated catalogue of Bee-keepers' supplies, **FREE.** Address
LEAHY MFG. CO., HIGGINSVILLE, MO.

Barnes' Foot and Hand Power Machinery.



This cut represents our Combined Circular and Scroll Saw, which is the best machine made for Bee Keepers' use in the construction of their hives, sections, boxes, etc.

Machines sent on trial.

For Catalogue, Prices, Etc., Address,
W. F. & JNO. BARNES CO.,
 101 Ruby St., Rockford, Ills

PATENT WIRED COMB FOUNDATION.

HAS NO SAG IN BROOD FRAMES.

—Thin Flat Bottom Foundation.

Has no Fish-bone in Surplus Honey.

Being the cleanest is usually worked the quickest of any Foundation made. The talk about wiring frames seems absurd. We furnish a Wired Foundation that is *better*, just as *cheap* and not half the trouble to use. Circulars and samples free.

J. VanDeusen & Son,

SOLE MANUFACTURERS

Montgomery Co. Sprout Brook, N. Y.



THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.



Vol. 5.

NOVEMBER, 1894.

No. 11.

The North American Convention at St Joseph.

It has been said that the Convention at St. Joseph would be well written up, as there were so many editors there. Well, that is just what they were there for, and if they write about that convention, they will all say it was a grand success.

Some good friend suggests that it was a meeting of the "mutual admiration society;" well, why shouldn't it be, as there were some grand men and women there to be admired, and the man with soul so small, as to cast such an imputation on that gathering was unworthy of a place among them.

One staid away because there was "nothing new brought out, it was simply a rehash year after year."

We want to say to that one, whoever they may be, man or woman, there may have been a little hash, but it was all made of fresh material; there was no old stock, and no rehash there.

Among the many pleasant things to be remembered, there is none more pleasing than the forming personal acquaintance of many, who in former years we had known by their writings, and it was a pleasure, that will not soon be forgotten, to thus meet brother editors and writers. And, much as we

may have thought of them before, our esteem for them is greater now.

It is impossible, to give a pen description of a convention, and convey to readers the ideas we received, so that they could know the whole to be learned at such a convention. The "after dinner" chats, brought out so many good thoughts, and so much of real instruction, that we hardly know which to place first, these, or the regular business meetings.

Of one thing we are convinced, that is, that long papers, at such meetings, do not give the instruction needed, that the question box brings out. We would not do away with these papers, by no means, as they are valuable, to be printed with the proceedings for future reference. But the question box brings out discussions upon the certain points in which those present are particularly interested, at that time, and an interchange of views is like the "Indian rubbing two sticks together," sorter takes off the rough edges and corners, and theories often get well ventilated by facts from actual practice.

The Secretary struck a happy way of making each member introduce themselves, or rather of giving each a number, so that we might know we were.

This was the first time I had answered to a number since soldier days, when

I used to answer "here" to the call of No. 12.

If this scheme had been carried a little farther, it would have been still better. The numbers were large enough to be easily seen across the room when put on the lappel of the coat, then to have been complete, there should have been printed lists, giving name and number, that would have been an introduction O. K. Friend Benton is to be congratulated upon the scheme so far, and we can improve next time.

A committee was appointed to revise the constitution, and they hit so hard, that even its best friends would not have recognized the old one, after they had reported their work, which was adopted. Everything relating to affiliated societies, honey companies, etc., was thrown out.

Another scheme to try to increase membership, and hold the old ones in the paying traces, was to offer to give to every paying member for 1895, his choice of the bee papers published in the U. S. or Canada. Whether this will be for the best interests of all concerned is yet to be seen. At any rate, that is the rule, and will all try to make it a success.

Every one present will long remember Pres. Abbot's efforts to keep all moving along even, smoothly, and to the delight and profit of everyone, and to say that he succeeded, is only putting it very mild, for he certainly showed himself to be a splendid executive officer, and set an example worthy of every future president of the North American to follow.

Sweet Clover as a Honey and Forage Plant.

The attention of beekeepers everywhere has been turned toward sweet clover during the past dry

season. Its ability to withstand the dryest of weather and to thrive where nothing else will grow, together with the fact that it furnishes an abundance of nectar from the middle of May until severe frosts in the fall. In the state of Illinois an old Grandmother Legislature passed an act outlawing this plant or cultivate the same. It exists in roads and byways in that state and during last August while visiting in the northern part of that state we noticed that Sweet clover was about the only forage plant that had withstood the drouth and in many cases farmers had turned their cattle out into the highways and were herding them on the sweet clover. It has been claimed that sweet clover is a noxious weed and that it overruns everything in its way. It is true that if left to itself that this plant will run out sandburs, wild sunflower and ragweed, but we challenge any man to produce an instance where sweet clover has overrun any piece of ground under good cultivation. A gentleman from Denver, Colorado, states that he purchased a lot of baled hay that was mixed about half and half between alfalfa and sweet clover and that his stock picked out and eat the sweet clover before eating the alfalfa. While we are not advocating sweet clover as a forage plant, yet we are not so certain but that this plant may not become the forage plant for the uplands of this state. It is doubtless

able to produce as many tons per acre of equally as good hay as alfalfa, yet it would be necessary to leave a portion of the seed on the ground every year in order to reseed the land. Some fine specimens of sweet clover honey were on exhibition at our last State fair produced by A. C. Davidson, of Omaha. Mr. Davidson has taken a deal of pains to get this plant established in their vicinity, and is now reaping a rich reward. While calling on Mr. Davidson we were shown specimens of this plant growing on streets and railroad grades where nothing else was growing. At, and during the winter Nebraska bee meeting to be held at Auburn next month we hope to see the question of sweet clover as a honey producing plant, if not for forage taken up and thoroughly discussed. So favorably are we impressed with this plant both as a honey as well as a forage plant that we have no hesitancy in recommending our friends to supplant sunflower, sand-bur and ragweed patches with it, if they go no farther until such a time as they can satisfy themselves as to its value.

E. Whitcomb.

A Spider's Bite,

From numerous experiments made by placing bees in different spiders' webs that spin among currant bushes, Dr. Dallinger, who, for many years has been making a close study of the ways and doings

of spiders, says: "I found that in every case the spider took good care to away from of the bee's sting while encircling the unhappy insect round and round with its endless length of web till all hope of escape was over. The spider then cautiously approached the bee, gave it one bite in the leg and retreated to the corner of its web to watch the result. The struggles of the doomed bee got less and less, till within one minute of the bite they ceased altogether. The poison of the spider had done its work very speedily."

Extracted or Comb Honey for the Home Market.

BY L. L. ALLSPAUGH.

Do not expect too much of me, and I will do the best I can with the subject assigned me.

As for extracted honey, it is something that I have never produced, but I think the same plan would work as for comb honey. I am not a heavy honey producer, as I produced only 2,273 pounds of honey in three years, 1890-91-92. 1893 being almost a failure, and 94 so much of a failure that feed must be given soon to save the bees from starvation.

As to marketing honey at home, I have sold none elsewhere, and it was always gone before Christmas, always selling for 15 cts. or more per pound.

My plan has been like this. I

made two show cases, taking one of them to each of our best grocery stores, and set them on the counter and filled them with nice honey, taking care to have the sections nicely cleaned and scraped and honey well capped over, adorning them with pretty three colored labels, giving kind of honey, and my own name and address, giving the grocer order to sell the honey at so much per section.

I weigh the honey out to the grocer and take some pay in such goods as we wish in the family, which is as good as cash where we have to have the goods.

Many customers come to my house and buy, paying cash for my honey and go away rejoicing; and you would be surprised to know the number of these customers, always paying 15 to 20 cents per section.

The great secret in selling honey at home or abroad, depends largely upon the shape and style in which it is put on the market. People do not care to buy sections of honey, where the cappings are dark and broken; with combs bulged out on one side, and thin on the other; with bee glue all over the section, but will sooner take one with nice even combs, with the cappings all white and even, and with the sections scraped clean and adorned with a neat tasty label; then if the flavor is good, a customer once, a customer always. He pays for his honey, and goes on his way, with

visions of "buckwheats and honey" for family breakfast.

The business of putting up honey for market, either comb or extracted, is as much of a knack, as it is for the farmer to have hogs that bring the highest price in market. The good housewife who takes poor soft, colorless butter to market, which the grocer only buys for soap grease, never gets the highest price for her butter, but has to accept just what she can get—but when she takes a good prime article, her butter is demanded from a class of customers who can and will pay for a good article.

Does it pay to plant Crops with a view to Honey Production?

If so, What to Plant.

PAPER—MRS. A. L. HALLENBACK.

Continued from last month.

bees have been able to obtain from gardens planted, very early and well started before the dry weather came.

Buckwheat generally does well with us, and by judicious planting, may be made very profitable to the honey producer. This year but little of the buckwheat in this locality has had sufficient moisture to start it growing, but what has grown, helps out in furnishing our bees with stores for winter, and is no more of a failure than other crops this year.

It is only by the closest attention to details, watching each changing

feature of nature, so planting that each drop of rain may do the most good and thoroughly understanding each source from which our bees may obtain stores, that there is any hope of success in a season, such as the present one has been.

For some of us, the only planting that will furnish wholesome winter stores for the bees this year may be that of dollars and cents in the evil of grocers' money boxes. This crop, if well fertilized with brains, will furnish us with the nectar of granulated sugar and which, all other crops failing, our bees may be safely wintered.

Stimulative Feeding.

BY L. D. STILSON.

In presenting my subject, I am well aware, that I shall advance some ideas which will conflict with those of some of you present.

I will not inflict upon you any untried theories, but will give you results of my own work and practice. If I give you any good pointers, use them, but if I have not made a success of my work and practice, in Stimulative Feeding, do not follow my teachings.

There are so many different styles of feeding, and such a variation of practices among those who feed to stimulate brood rearing, that results are oftentimes seemingly in direct conflict. So many people imagine, that in feeding, if a spoonful is good, why not a quart,

so much better. In feeding, it should be the first of importance, to know what you are feeding for, and then study what to feed to produce the desired results, then, learn to feed so as to get the greatest returns.

First. What do we feed for?

Stimulative feeding is done for the purpose of having a strong colony of worker bees, of proper age, to secure our honey flow when it comes, or to build up our colonies in proper shape for division at some stated time.

What shall we feed to do this?

Nature has shown us what to feed, by furnishing pollen, and light nectar. Now if we wish the best results, we should follow just as closely after the pattern as possible. We can furnish a substitute for pollen, in the way of meal or flour from various grains, which is very readily accepted as a substitute by the bees, if given early in the spring, before trees and plants produce pollen. This is more readily carried to the hive for use, if it is placed in some sunny nook, than if placed inside the hive, as the process of loading the dust into the basket seems to require more exercise than can be had inside the hive. This pollen or bee bread is mixed with water and honey and fed to the immature bee.

Next, we feed honey or syrup in early spring, to take the place of exhausted winter stores, and rouse the bees to action, preparatory to

the summer's work, and the question very naturally arises, how can this be done to secure the best returns.

TO STIMULATE.

If the boy is to earn a thousand dollars, how can you stimulate him to action best. Can, or will he work as hard, to earn the money if at the end of each day give him a dollar, as if you tell him, earn what you can through the day, and at night I'll give you as much more. So too the bees, when in spring they begin to gather ever so little, feed them a little more.

What they have gathered during the day only fits them the better to care for the feed given at night. I shall draw a big black mark, as the distinctive difference between "Stimulative feeding," and our feeding, or gluttony.

To secure the greatest results in feeding, care should be had to feed just so as to keep a short supply in the combs only. And here I think is where so many fail in good results. They feed too heavy and at times when no natural honey is coming in, and in their eagerness to store all possible, the bees carry the syrup and store it in the cells most convenient, filling those which should have been used for brood rearing, and sometimes even filling cells already occupied by an egg or larvae. A tablespoonful of syrup at the right time, and in the right manner, is worth more than a teacupfull given improperly and at an

improper time.

During the past, Prof. R. L. Taylor Apiarist in charge of Michigan's Experimental Apiary, conducted a series of experiments in feeding, and his reports are decidedly against feeding. He however, like many another, fed too heavy, giving all they would take. Then too, he fed those that had been cellar wintered, and spring packed, which may make a difference in results, as I have never fed "cellar wintered" bees. However in my own work, I have always found that where I fed all they would take, there seemed no incentive to get out and rustle, taking the feed as given and storing it, but not using it in brood rearing, as the colonies which were fed a little and were stimulated to gather some more when daylight came, and seemed anxious to raise plenty of workers to aid in the task of gathering. My colonies gathering the largest yields of honey, have for the past three years, been those having a little feed, but never fed heavy, a tea cup full being the most, and seldom that much. While those as indolent and worthless as any, have been those with sealed honey in their combs, either fed, or full combs inserted. Combs full of honey in the brood nest don't fill the surplus cases above. It is bees we want at the beginning of the harvest, and in feeding don't forget that feeding for bees, is not feeding to gluttony.

Queen Rearing—Natural, vs. Scientific.

BY J. B. CASE.

In their natural state, bees are found thinly scattered in most places; and conditions are not similar in that respect, to what we find where bees are kept in large numbers, in one or more yards, near together.

Most bee keepers allow their bees to rear their own queens, in their own way. Some are superseded when the queen mother is failing, either by reason of long life, enfeebled by accident, or some other cause; or, perhaps her constitution has been injured by a long confinement during the winter. Many queens are superseded at or after swarming. A large proportion of swarms go off leaving nothing but eggs or very small larvae in the queen cells, and but few bees to care for them. Queens reared under these various conditions vary greatly in value, to prove which we have only to examine bees that rear their own queens.

As a rule poor and failing queens rear the most drones.

Now, let us look at the "scientific" side of queen rearing?

The aim of the queen breeder should be to rear only the best queens possible, every queen not "up to the mark" should be promptly discarded; every colony should have as near first class queens as is possible, and but few

if any drones allowed from any but its selected colonies. Breeding queens from other breeders, who are breeding with the same object in view, should be introduced and compared: if equal, or better, crossing should be resorted to.

By rearing all queens from the best queen to be got, requeening all full colonies with the best of these queens, rearing nearly all—as near as possible—drones from the best queens, and so continue; crossing with best selected queens from other breeders; as needed. By this plan bees can be injuriously in bred much sooner than in the old way.

As to how cells should be built out, I would say there are various ways. I prefer to transfer the larvae into "Doolittle cups," but should any be prejudiced against them, permit me to say that the first lot of cups I ever put in a hive were placed "on a stick," in a colony that was preparing to swarm, and the queen laid in nearly every one.

I have been using the cups, transferring larvae, and breeding Golden queens for four years, and this year I have taken 19,000 lbs. from 50 colonies, and had 400 to 500 combs built out from starter cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips. Of the three other bee keepers in this vicinity, making the highest average; one with 56 colonies, who two years ago bought 17 queens, averaged 380 lbs.; another with 116 colonies,

last year bought 22 queens, and averaged 360 lbs.; the third, with 65 colonies, with nearly all stock mixed or pure from mine, thinks he has averaged about 360 lbs.; about two-thirds of mine I moved to the mangrove, near where these parties live, and they averaged 425 lbs. while those at home averaged about 300 lbs.; these are the four largest yields in this section, and proof of the above with names of the parties will be supplied on application to me. Some are prejudiced against five banded bees and against transferring larvae and I give the above facts to show that the five banded bees are equal to any, as workers, and, that as good queens can be reared by using the cups and transferring larvae, as by any other method. But, it requires study, patient attention to details, and perseverance to rear good queens.

Port Orange, Fla.

A system has lately been brought into practical use, where by cotton is pressed into a round bale, by the means of a cylindar press, which forces the air out as the bale is being pressed. This new process, so reduces the size of the bale, that a bout 30 per cent more can be loaded into a car, than by the old style bale.

This item is about as valuable as the sack full of wind, which is given us in John Plowman's Pictures; it makes a show and fills up, but when you come to look in there is nothing to be found.

→ 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.

North American Bee Keepers' Association.

OFFICERS FOR 1895.

Pre. R. F. Holtermann Brantford, Ont.
Vice Pres. L. D. Stilson York, Neb.
Sec. W. Z. Hutchinson Flint, Mich.
Treas. J. T. Calvert Medina, Ohio.

Next meeting at Toronto, Canada.

Quite a lively interest is being taken in the subject of bees in Wisconsin. H. Lathrop, Brownston, Wis., the Secretary of their State Association, is urging all those interested to write him before their annual meeting which occurs in February.

We are publishing the reports of the State Bee Convention at Lincoln, in book form, to which will be added the report of the Winter meeting at Auburn.

The Winter meeting of the Neb. State Bee Keepers' Association will be held at Auburn Dec. 4-5

Recollect the time and place.

Almost a complete list of the honey plants of Nebraska and the west has been secured, and which we hope to publish in the Dec. issue.

Some warm and pleasant days in the last two weeks have given the bees a chance for exercise and flight.

Auburn, Dec. 4-5.

THE HOME.

The Early Owl.

An owl once lived in a hollow tree
And he was as wise as wise could be
The branch of learning he didn't know,
Could scarce on the tree of knowledge
grow.

He knew the tree from branch to root,
And an owl like that can afford to hoot

And he hooted—until, alas! one day,
He chanced to hear in casual way,
An insignificant little bird
Make use of a term he had never heard
He was flying to bed in the dawning
light.

When he heard her singing with all
her might.

"Hurray! hurray! for the early worm!"

"Dear me," said the owl, what a singular term!

I would look it up it were not too late,
I must rise at dusk to investigate.
Early to bed and early to rise
Makes an owl healthy, stealthy and
wise!"

So he slept like an honest owl all day.
And rose in the early twilight gray,
And went to work in the dusky light
To look for the early worm at night.

He searched the country for miles a-
round,

But the early worm was not to be found
So he went to bed in the dawning light,
And looked for the worm again next
night,

And again and again and again and a-
gain

He sought and he sought, but all in vain
Till he must have looked for a year and
a day

For the early worm in the twilight
gray.

At last in despair he gave up the search

And was heard to remark as he sat on
his perch

By the side of his nest in the hollow
tree:

"The thing is as plain as night to me—
Nothing can shake my conviction firm,
There's no such thing as the early
worm."

—*The Missouri Teacher.*

Florida Cisterns in Tree Tops.

A surveying party were resting
at noon in a forest in Florida, when
one of the men exclaimed: "I
would give fifty cents a swallow
for all the water I could drink."

All were very thirsty, and there
was not a spring or stream any-
where in the vicinity.

While the men were thus talking
the surveyor saw a crow put his bill
into a cluster of broad, long leaves
growing on the side of a tall cy-
press. The leaves were those of a
peculiar air plant. They were
green, and bulged out at the bot-
tom, forming an inverted bell.
The smaller end was held to the
tree by roots grappling the bark.
Feeding on the air and water that
it catches and holds, the air plant
becomes a sort of cistern. The
surveyor sprang to his feet with a
laugh.

"Boys," he said, "that old crow
is wiser than every one of us."

"How so?" they asked.

"Why, he knows that there are
a hundred thousand water tanks in
this forest."

"Where?" they cried, in amaze-

ment.

The surveyor cut an air plant in two, and drained nearly a pint of pure cold water from it. The men did not suffer for water after that, for every tree in the forest had at least one air plant, and almost every air plant contained a drink of water.

—*The Sunlight.*

The First Printer and His Troubles.

When Faustus had printed, in 1460, a number of copies of the Bible he undertook the sale of them in Paris, where printing was then unknown. As he sold his copies for 60 crowns, while the scribes demanded 500 for their manuscripts, he created universal astonishment; but when he produced the copies as fast as they were wanted, and lowered the price to 30 crowns, all Paris was in agitation. The uniformity of the copies greatly increased the wonder; information was given to the police against him as a magician, his lodgings being consequently searched and a great number of copies being found, they were seized. The red ink with which they were embellished was supposed to be his blood, and it was seriously adjudged that he was in league with the devil, and it is presumed that if he had not fled he would have shared the fate of those whom superstitious judges in those days condemned for witchcraft.

—*Jewish Messenger.*

A Peculiar Place.

“Small boys who cannot resist the temptation to make predatory excursions on neighboring apple

orchards, should be transplanted to the Sandwich Islands, where the apples have become wild, and where forests of many acres are found in various parts of the country. They extend from the level of the sea far up the mountain sides. It is said that miles of these apple forests can occasionally be seen. A traveller is responsible for the statement that the extent of one of them is between five and ten miles in width and about twenty miles long.

A Bird Incident.

Humming birds are very shy and fleet of wing. It is difficult to make their acquaintance. A gentleman who had the opportunity to watch a motherbird and the tiny nest which she had built near his room, says that one day, when there was a heavy shower coming up, just as the first drops fell, the mother came fluttering home, seized a large leaf which grew on a tree near by, drew it over her nest in a way to completely cover it, then went back to whatever work she had been about, when the coming storm disturbed her. The watchers at the window wondered why the leaf did not blow away. They found it hooked to a tiny stick just inside the nest. When the storm was over the mother came home, unhooked the green curtain she had so perfectly put up, and found her babies all dry.

Our Dumb Animals.

Back to Mother.

~~~~~

Standing on the platform is a young girl of slender form, and she held cut her thin hand, "I will tell you good-bye, I am going home," tears in her eyes, her voice quivered, "going back to mother." That was all she said. I knew the pitiful story. She was a wife; she married a drunkard to reform him, married in opposition to the wishes and advice of her truest friends. She thought her love could work a miracle. but to-day standing alone, she realizes the fallacy of her hopes. Her beautiful vision has melted as ice before the sun. If she was the only one I would not pen these lines, but there are so many girls marrying men to reform them, I would as soon believe that with one wave of my hand I could remove a mountain. And I would be afraid to undertake such a stupendous piece of work, I would be afraid I would fail, and failure means so much to you girls if you could only comprehend its full meaning, you would shudder at the bare thought. Dear girls, physically you are not strong enough. Think of the privations, the hard work, the sleepless nights, the tears, the heartaches, the mortification that the drunkards wife is heir to, when little children cling to your skirts in terror at their father's approach, and the world looks on you with pitying eyes. Can you bear it? If I could paint

all the anguish and fierce despair of the drunkards wife, her poor emaciated body as it lies cold in death, at the age of twenty-four or six, would you marry a man to reform him? Yes girls, you are doing it every day, and every day one of you is laid in the silent tomb. Died of consumption, poor thing. But I say you deliberately walked into your coffin with your eyes open and as long as there are drunkards and immoral men there will be pure sweet girls to marry them. Oh, for a generation of girls that could not love a man less pure than themselves.

— *Wisconsin Agriculturist.*

## GIVE

~~~~~

"Give as you would if an angel
 Awaited your gift at the door;
 Give as you would if tomorrow
 Found you where waiting was o'er;
 Give as you would to the Master
 If you met His searching look:
 Give as you would of your substance
 If His hand your offering took."

Valuable Timber.

~~~~~

It is said that the woods of Central and South America are, perhaps, the most remarkable as well as the least known, and many of them far finer than any of those now in use. As for color, they range from white to black; many of them being marked and veined giving a beautiful finish; also, some of these woods are so hard as to



turn the edge of an axe or saw. It is doubtless but a comparatively short time when these valuable and useful woods will be brought into use in our own country at least.

### The Great Canal.

It is now the intention of those who are engineering the work of the great canal, which is to connect the great lakes with the Mississippi river, to have it ready for use by November 1st. 1896. The work of this canal was begun in September, '92, and it is estimated that when it is finished, it will have cost about twenty-one million dollars. This canal will open up an internal waterway which will permit the ocean vessels and those from foreign ports to land their cargo in the heart of the United States—Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, etc.—instead of New York, Boston, and New Orleans as heretofore. Grain and cotton can be loaded in our great commercial centers directly, thereby saving the cost and delay at the coast, as it now does. This may be classed with other of the great engineering schemes that have proved of so much value to our country.

### Life.

How we prize the life that now is—this mortal life, this life of uncertainty, this life that is fast fleeting away, this life with all its environments, with all its limitations,

with all its pains and disappointments! How, withal, we love this life! How we long to retain it! How we would like to invest it with immortality and dwell here forever! How loath we are to part with it! With what reluctance, with what unavailing protests we yield to the inevitable!

Yet this life to which we thus cling is not worthy of mention in comparison with the life possible to us and promised to us; the life we have even now, and shall have forevermore, if we have Christ—a life unlimited; a life that has all eternity for its fuller expansion; a life that knows no aches, no pains, no disappointments, no death. Is it not strange that so many may be found who have no appreciation of it, no deep yearning for it—who so little prize it that they refuse, when it is freely offered them without money and without price?

*Farm and Fireside.*

### Hay! Bee! Sea!

Good farmer Kay took Johnny Burt with him one day  
To see the lads and lasses turn the new sweet smelling **A**.  
And Johnnie worked as hard, I think, as any on the farm,  
Till from the hay a **B** flew out, and stung him on the arm.  
Then Johnny sat him down to rest, and watched the distant **C**.  
And saw the fishing boats sail by along the river **D**.  
**E** saw the horses drawing near, and wanting them to make  
An **F**-fort, and to see them give their

tinkling bells a shake,  
 He got his Uncle's walking-stick and  
 then he marched about,  
 And when the wagons drew quite near  
**C**-up! began to shout.  
 Dog Carlo came to frisk about where  
 they the grass had mown,  
 And Johnnie saw that in his mouth he  
 had a large **H** bone.  
 But Carlo quickly dropped his bone,  
 his **I** was on a tree  
 In which a bird—a **J** I think, was  
 singing merrily.  
 Then Johnny called his Uncle **K** to see  
 him throw a stone,  
 But as there were no stones about,  
 why Johnny threw the bone.  
 But do you think in doing so he fright-  
 ened Master Jay—  
 Oh, no, he sat and whistled still full  
 fifty **L**'s away.  
 Now **M**-ma came to fetch him home,  
 and when she saw the bird,  
 She said it was a magpie **N**, now  
 wasn't that absurd?  
 As Johnny said "I am so tired, **O** I  
 should like to ride,"  
 They set him on the horse's back, al-  
 though it was too wide.  
 At last they all got safely home, and  
 Johnny ran before,  
 He lived in such a pretty home with  
 sweet **P** around the door.  
 He took his hat and jacket off, and had  
 some bread and cheese,  
 And then he asked for **Q** cucumber, he  
 was a dreadful tease.  
 And though they said he mustn't take  
 it, still he said he would,  
 He took a piece and ate it up, and  
 said "**R** that was good."  
 But though he thought he'd done it  
 well, he didn't quite **S**-cape,  
 But found that by his wilfulness he'd  
 got into a scrape,  
 The cucumber brought dreadful pains,  
 as it will do you see,  
 So Emma sent him off to bed, and gave  
 him ginger **T**.  
 The indigestion's bad **U** know, or so at

least 'tis said,  
 And Johnny like a letter **V** lay doubled  
 up in bed,  
 Such dreadful pains will **W**, although  
 you are a man,  
 And little Johnny didn't know how  
 great a risk he ran,  
 But this I think is pretty clear, and no  
 more need be said,  
 That little Johnny Burt had not **X**-act-  
 ly a **Y Z** head.  
 —*Australian Agriculturist.*

### Catching Sardines.

The next time the readers of our  
 paper eat sardines, it may be of in-  
 terest to remember that in the early  
 days of California, when it was in-  
 habited only by Spnaish and In-  
 dians, these little fish were caught  
 in a different way from what they  
 are now. In autumn, on certain  
 days, the Indians would wade out  
 in the surf up tn their knees, then  
 with a scoop net they would gather  
 in the fish which seemed to be in  
 swarms or schools. It is claimed  
 that they keep as near the shore as  
 possible thus avoiding the larger  
 fish which live in deeper water. It  
 is said that they are of a silvery  
 white color and are a beautiful  
 sight to look upon as they rush to  
 and fro in the water. How differ-  
 ent they look as they are packed  
 in the little tin boxes and exposed  
 for sale at every grocery store in  
 the land; what a change takes place  
 from the time they are taken out of  
 the Pacific until they appear upon  
 the table, ready to eat, and that a  
 thousand miles away.

What day, of special delight to  
 children, comes in November?



## Change of Title.

In order to broaden its sphere of usefulness, the name of that well-known periodical, *The Saw-Mill Gazette*, has been changed to *Lumber*. It will now cover the entire field of wood-working, as its new title succinctly states, "from the tree to the finished product." Its subscription price will remain unchanged, and a sample copy of the paper in its new form will be sent on application to the publishers, M. T. Richardson Co., 84 Reade St., New York.

## Cheerful Winter Evenings.

Nothing brings so much joy and genuine satisfaction to the fireside as a genial visitor—one that you heartily welcome and are always glad to see. The latch string is always out for The Prairie farmer, for it always brings a big weekly budget for the entertainment and instruction of every member of the family. It has this year nearly 200,000 readers and admirers. It is brighter than ever with a host of new writers. Prof. G. E. Morrow is special staff writer. He is a very powerful writer on all agricultural and live stock topics, and his letters will be looked for with much interest.

Mr. C. P. Goodrich handles the Dairy in the best possible manner, and he speaks, too, from a life's experience.

Waldo Brown, F. B. Mumford, Prof. Thos. Shaw, are among the noted contributors to the Live Stock department.

Joseph Meehan and John Wragg are among the more noted writers on Horticultural matters.

Chas. Dadant, the best American authority on Bees, writes especially for The Prairie Farmer.

The Household department is complete, and the young people are not forgotten.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas numbers, will be worth more than a year's subscription. \$1.00 gets 52 visits. —The Prairie Farmer, Chicago.

One of the latest uses to which paper has been turned is the making of telegraph poles. The paper pulp employed is saturated with a mixture of borax, tallow and other substances. The preparation when thoroughly prepared is cast in a mould, having a cone in the center, and thus makes a hollow pole the desired length. The cross pieces are held in place by wooden keys driven in on either side of the pole. They are said to be lighter and stronger than wood and unaffected by the climatic changes.

Nearly every occupation, industry and business has a publication devoted to the interests which it represents; now, there are exceptions to these publications, in one way or another, but the AMERICAN GARDENING, No. 170 Fulton St., New York, is so far above the average that it stands, without doubt, at the head of the list of publications devoted to gardening, fruit-growing, and flower-culture: also has directions for cooking vegetables after they are grown. Sample copy is sent free.

**\$5** \$10 and \$20 Genuine Confederate Bills, only five cents each—\$100 and \$50 bills, ten cents each. 25 and 50 cent shinplasters, ten cents each. \$1 and \$2 bills, 25 cents each. Sent securely sealed on receipt of price. Address Chas. B. Barker, West Atlanta, Ga.

The Advance catalogue and price list of The Iowa Seed Co., Des Moines, Iowa, is now ready and will be sent to those wanting seed, free of charge.