The Nebraska bee-keeper and irrigator. Vol 7, No 4 April, 1896

York, Neb.: L.D. Stilson, April, 1896

The Nebraska Bee-Keeper
AND IRRIGATOR.

MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO APICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

Vol. 7. YORK, NEBRASKA, APRIL, 1896. No 4.

The Nebraska Bee-Keeper
AND IRRIGATOR.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO APICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

Vol. 7. YORK, NEBRASKA, APRIL, 1896. No 4.

Annual Report of Neb. State Bee-Keepers' Association.

Continued from March issue.

Actual weight in 14 combs, 39 lbs. plus the 46 lbs, gives a total of 85 lbs. Amount of honey previously taken, 150 lbs. making a total of 235 pounds.

Weight of brood chamber 35 lbs., weight of 14 brood combs, 11 lbs. weight of bees, (estimate) 4 lbs. Total weight, 96 lbs. leaving 46 lbs. of honey.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. WM. STOLLEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1895.

J. B. PARTRIDGE, County Clerk.

By D. ACKERMAN, Deputy.

I herewith submit report of colony of bees for entry for premium No. 1478.

At the close of the State Fair in 1894, I took one of the queens I had on exhibition and introduced her into an 8 frame colony of Italian bees in my own yard.

About Oct. 20th I set seven of the frames containing bees, brood and honey, into a chaff packed winter hive containing the frames over the top with two thicknesses of burlaps, then putting on them top cover, filling it up with chaff, leaving them on their summer stand.

March 1st, I closed up the seven frames and introduced one filled with sealed honey; again filling the cap full of dry chaff; leaving them until fruit blossoms, when I took out the chaff and fitted on the board cover.

On July 1st, the first swarm came off which were hived on full frames of foundation, filling the 8 frames with honey in 10 days and began work in the sections above.

July 8th, a second swarm came out which was also hived on full

sheets of foundation.

July 11 and 13th the third and fourth swarms issued from the old hive. These were hived on starters only, but had filled their 8 frame hives Sept. 1st.

August 6th, the first swarm threw off a swarm which was hived on starters and filled the hive body in 8 days.

Aug. 15th, hive No. 1, threw off a second swarm which has now sufficient stores for winter.

Sept. 5th, I extracted 50 lbs. of honey from the old hive and from No. 1, but not being sufficiently ripened I did not extract more.

There is also some section honey but not sufficiently sealed to remove at this time, Sept. 5th, 1895.

L. D. STILSON.

History of Colony No. 28.

Age of Queen; Aug. 10th., 1894, Italian Strain.

The brood chamber of hive holds fourteen frames or combs, 12½ X 12½ outside measure or 11¾ X 11¾ inside measure, is double walled with air space. It has spaces of half depth of brood frame, and is arranged and fitted for the tiering up system. This colony was fed 10 pounds of syrup on October 18th, 1894, preparatory for wintering, and had about twenty pounds of natural stores of combs when fed, and after being contracted April 3rd, 1895, this colony received one comb, containing about four pounds of honey. May 21st., 1895, I shaved off all drone heads; May 23rd., 1895, I put on first super, 15 half depth frames for want of room. May 24th., 1895, all chaff packing was removed but quilts remained.

June 15th, 1895, I put in second supers (15 frames) to make room for bees, and also shaved off drone heads.

June 26th. 1895, this colony swarmed, but the swarm went back or into old stand. I took 7 combs (each with choice queen cells) bees and brood, and put them in another hive in tier of hives above (as pdr photo) and gave empty comb instead alternating the combs given with those in the hive, and cut out all remaining queen cells and drone heads.

June 29, 1895, I found old queen dead in front of hive. July 3, 1895, I cut out a number of queen cells, but left two on frames marked. I also took away six brood combs with honey and replaced with empty combs leaving all remaining combs with brood in center of hive. Queen cells left in this hive were not capped yet, and I contemplated to destroy them on July 10, next, and introduce young laying queen instead.

July 10, 1895, I took combs with queen cells away, and gave a comb without brood, but with two choice queen cells instead. But on the next day I changed my mind. July 11 I took fifteen super combs, equal to thirty pounds of honey. I also took four combs out of brood chamber (used my union scheme), and united a Nadevas with a laying queen with this colony, after finding and killing a bad looking inferior queen in this colony.

July 11 I took fifteen combs, thirty pounds of honey; July 15 I took seventeen combs, thirty-four pounds; July 17, fifteen combs, thirty pounds; July 30, fifteen combs, thirty pounds; August 9, fifteen combs, thirty pounds; August 13, fifteen combs, twenty-five pounds; September 9, fifteen combs, twenty pounds: total surplus taken, one hundred ninety-nine pounds of honey.

September 9, weight of brood chamber, bees and fourteen combs, eighty-nine pounds. Weight of empty brood chamber, thirty-seven pounds; weight of fourteen empty combs, eleven pounds; weight of bees—estimate—four pounds: total weight, fifty-two pounds. Stores in brood chamber, thirty-seven pounds.

Total productive, 236 pounds of honey.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. WM. STOLLEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1895.

J. B. PARTRIDGE, County Clerk.

By D. ACKERMAN, Deputy.

A National Bee-keepers' Association. The advantage of having one.

BY GEORGE W. BROADBECK.

We have always thought well of the North American Bee-keepers' Association and of the National Bee-keepers' Union. The mere thought of the possible obliteration of either by the proposed plan of amalgamation brings with it feelings of sadness. The protective influence that has been exerted by the one, and the social privileges afforded by the other, have done much toward the advancement of bee culture in this country; yet neither of these has supplied the real and necessary demands of the bee-keepers of the United States. This very proposition of amalgamation is evidence of the need of something that does not exist. We talk of the advanced state of our industry in this country in comparison with that existing in others; but when we consider our lack of organization, aside from our State associations, is this really true? Is it not strange that, during the years that have passed, we have not

recognized the need of a represenative organization? Why is it that we have been disposed to be so generous in the support of affiliated associations at the expense of home interests?

We believe that the most important interest to provide for to-day is the formation of an organization that will voice and further the bee-keeping industry of every section of the Union. We have always admired the indomitable and persevering skill of the German, and have taken just pride in the indomnitable will and selfassurance of our enterprising Canadians; and, while there are many good qualities in both, worthy of emulation, is it not about time for us to develop some characters of our own? Why should not others emulate us?

There is not a country on the face of the earth that has more intelligent and capable bee-keepers than we have in the United States, and yet some of us have been chasing after every phantom organization that came along; and the present seems but the re-echo of the past.

Now, brother bee-keepers, let us bury the past, and try to live up to the demands of the present. There never has been and never will be a more propitious time for the organization of a national bee-keepers' association than now. You yourself, Mr. Editor, on page 157, in connection with the Hon. Geo. E. Hilton, voice the need of just such an organization. We wonder how many times in the past we have, under like circumstances, been forced to put our hands in our pockets, and whistle, "Oh! there's a good time coming," etc., when a representative bee-keepers' association would have brought about some good results. What other organization could do such work more effectively for the bee-keepers than one that would voice the sentiments of every bee-keeping State in the Union? Our only hope of raising the standard of our industry, and to secure the much-needed legislation, is by organizing along the lines advocated. We may harp on State laws from now until the end of time; but unless we bee-keepers combine and thus secure national legislation in opposition to adulteration it will avail us nothing. We can scarcely realize the possible good that might result from such a combination. The known quantity, though, ought to be sufficient to inspire the most phlegmatic person within our ranks to a willingness to do something toward the protection of his own industry. Think of the good resulting by the proper dissemination of knowledge, the more even distribution of our product, resulting in increased consumption. This is an age of progression; and it is necessary that we keep step with the procession, otherwise we shall be relegated to the rear. Our necessites say, "Begin and build to-day; build wisely, and build well;" and when we have once erected a firm foundation, to accord with our form of government, we can enlarge its capacity as our needs demand.

As a closing suggestion we urge immediate consideration and action; and to further this project we would outline the following:

First, the selection of two delegates by each State association or assembly of bee-keepers where no State organization exists. After due time for selection of delegates, the persons selected organize, and proceed to formulate plans for a national bee-keepers' association. The work of this preliminary organization can all be conducted by correspondence, and then submitted to the various State associations for ratification and the selection of delegates to the first assembly, the place of meeting being central and permanent.

We trust now that every bee-keeper who resides in the United States will in some way give expression to his views on the subject presented. We feel assured that, if we thus show a willingness to present our cause, it will result in a double assurance to our usually wide-awake bee-editors that they are working for "the greatest good to the greatest number."—Los Angeles, Cal.

Gleanings.

The North American at Lincoln, Neb.

Editor Bee-Keeper:—The proposed moving of the next meeting of the North American from Lincoln to Minneapolis or St. Paul, has brought forth from Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri such a storm of protests that our eastern bee-keepers cannot fail to see the hand writting on the wall and be governed accordingly. The magnanimous manner in which Nebraska gave way to Toronto while at St. Joseph, and the promptness with which our Canadian bretheren returned the compliment fixing the meeting for 1896 at Lincoln, was pretty conclusive that the Nebraska bee-keepers has earned the 1896 meeting of the North American which had been given them. To remove this meeting to any other place would be a gross breach of good faith, not only to Nebraska but to all the west. Those who have had experience in following G. A. R. reunions, with society or other meetings have found this plan to be a total failure On these occasions every one desires to be a soldier, and does not care to be encumbered by the lesser attraction. There are hundreds of old soldiers in the west who are also bee-keepers, and who also feel that they do not desire to be bothered with the American at the same time in which they are busily engaged in fighting their battles over or are hunting up the comrade of thirty years ago. St. Paul or Minneapolis might offer a slight advantage in railroad rates, but what would be saved in this direction would more than be consumed in the exorbitant hotel rates that always accompany the G. A. R. reunions..

We believe that a better and more profitable meeting can be held at Lincoln, than at either St. Paul or Minneapolis. That a good railroad rate can be got to Lincoln, that the differense as between the hotel rates at Lincoln will make the expenses greatly in favor of Lincoln when the agregate of expenaes are to be summed up. We believe that Lincoln will go one better than this and see that every person who visits the North American at Lincoln is entertained free of expense during its sessions, and that they will return to their homes feeling that on no other occasion was such a specimen of hospitality exhibited, even Kentucky, and that for the time Lincoln and in fact all Nebraska was theirs. Most of the State institutions are located at Lincoln, the great University is located here, where the meetings can be held, and we feel safe in saying that not only its able and efficient Chancellor but its whole corps of professors will vie with each other in making this meeting a success at Lincoln. Here we have located our scientific experiment stations in Apiculture as well as in all other branches that effect the bee-keeper directly as well as indirectly are always at hand here Let the next meeting of the North American be held at Lincoln by all means.

E. WHITCOMB.

Sweet Clover—Harvesting It for the Seed.

BY JOHN MCARTHUR.

In the March 16th number of the American Bee Journal I read an appeal from the editor, asking for more information about sweet clover. When one begins to write about this—the queen of honey-plants—he scarcely knows where to begin or where to end. I have always written favorably of it as a forage and honey-plant, having had 15 years' experience cultivating, harvesting and marketing the seed. If my experience will be any benefit, it will be given freely.

Before going into details, allow me to say a few words about an editorial that appeared in the Canadian Bee Journal for Jan. 18, 1896, page 699. The editor said: "Some put great stock in 'sweet clover.' It may be a matter of locality, but we think it is sometimes a matter of careful observation;" and winds up by saying, "It is an injury, making the bees restless, and consume more stores than they gather." this has never been my experience. Perhaps he will wait till some one more enthusiastic than himself does the seeding, and he share the benefit. I would advise the use of a little more seed. It can be had handy, and at reasonable figures; by doing so he would be helping himself, also his neighbors, and that is our misson here, I believe.

Mr. Wm. Stolley gave us a grand description of sweet clover in

the Bee Journal of Dec. 19, 1895. Then we had another view of it in the Bee Journal of Jan. 30, 1896, discussed by the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' convention, and a really practical reading by that veteran—Mr. M. M. Baldridge, of St. Charles, Ill. Just look up those back journals and read them over and over, until you master the facts. Then get some seed, and commence the good work, and help yourself. If you do that, you will help your neighbors, and be none the poorer. You will aid the sportsman, because it is a fine cover for game. Several declared to me when harvesting, that rabbits and other game had become very numerous in the past few years, attributing it to the amount of sweet clover growing in this locality, being food and cover for them.

Another very important point not touched upon, is sweet clover from an ornithological point of view. While harvesting, we were very much surprised at the unusual amount of bird's-nests found among its many branches, and singularly reminded one of the parable of the mustard seed—Matt. xiii, 31 and 32. The season was too far gone to find eggs to identify the species; however, I brought the matter before our Natural History Society, and it will be looked into next season. This certainly is a very valuable addition to its other good qualities. Since our forests are being devasted, birds are disappearing. If we commence to cover those barren hillsides, rough and inaccessible places, that have been denuded of timber, we can have a growth of sweet clover in two years that will bring back, and very much increase, our insectivorous friends, which will be very much appreciated by orchardists, fruit growers and farmers, in fact, all will be benefited. All who love Nature should gain in helping forward the good work. Seed is cheap, and may be procured anywhere.

The question of harvesting will now be considered. The method adopted by the writer may not be the right way, but has been found the most convenient, although entailing considerable labor. As to whether the first or second crop should be taken for seed depends upon whether you are merely growing it for seed, or for hay and seed. For some time I have cut a portion for hay, and used the second crop for seed. This answers well, because the second crop is finer in straw, producing as much seed as the first crop, and is easier managed, which, I think, answers the best from an agricultural point of view. The second growth is much finer, and after threshing it, it can be used to good advantage for litter, producing as much seed as the first crop, with this advantage, it can be handled much easier, being from two to three feet in height, while the first crop will sometimes reach from three to eleven—I have a sample that height in my possession, this being the exception, not the rule. It was grown in a very favorable locality.

My advice to the farmer who grows sweet clover for its food value is this: Cut in June, or at all events before it blooms, or you will have a job on your hands, and you will sweat for it, and deserve to. It is very succulent, and care has to be exercised in curing it. Don't cure it too much—just have it nicely killed. If overdone, the leaves will drop off, which would be a great loss. When putting it in the mow use plenty of salt.

The acreage grown here is pretty extensive, and the seed procured is from the first crop, which is generally ripe in August, and should be cut before the second blossom appears, which is sure to be the case if we have much rain in the latter part of July, or the beginning of August. If the atmosphere is sultry and showery, nectar will be collected liberally from the second blossom.

I employ two or three men for a month, at $1 25 per day, and accompany them to the field of operation. Each is equipped with a scythe, a sickle, and whetstone. We have a sling made from the top of an old boot, with a cord attached; this is put around our waist. The sling, or pouch, hangs from the middle of the back downwards, and contains the whetstone and sickle. It is out of the way, and always at hand when required. When reaping, we often find places the scythe cannot be worked to advantage, when the sickle is at hand and applied. The ordinary scythe is too light for the first crop, requiring what we term here the "bull-dog," a short, strong blade, generally used in cutting down weeds. The sickle, I believe, is the more profitable implement of the two. The cutting is more gently done The clover is laid down in bundles, can be picked up gently and quickly, which means a great saving of seed. The scythe strikes hard, and out flies the seed, and, in gathering, it is a tangled mass in the swath, and much seed is lost in unravelling it.

The first few days we cut without interruption; as the seed becomes riper we cut only in the mornings, devoting the heat of the day for threshing, which is done as follows:

About 9 or 10 o'clock we select a level piece of ground with as few stubbles as possible, which are cut close to the ground, throwing on some mould to level up and make it smooth. We then spread out an old sail or canvas about 20 feet square, and gather up all clover around the threshing floor, piling it up several feet high with the heads to the center. Two then get on top with flails, or dung-forks or pitch-forks, striking with all their might. In the heat of the day the seed will fairly rush out. Towards evening you will find it more difficult to get it off the straw, showing how easily it becomes affected by moisture.

When fairly in the swing of the work, you will find it necessary to

make a second threshing-floor, because of the long distance to carry. Proceed as at first, leaving the two threshers to clean up the first floor. By shaking off the straw, the bottom will be found a mat of seed and pods, and will make you sweat to shake it out. When as clean as the hands will make it, put it through a riddle, ⅜ mesh. If you want it cleaner, put it through another a little finer. Bag it up, and store it away in dry, comfortable quarters. If it should be the least damp, spread it out on a floor and turn it occasionally. Should it become heated the seed is spoiled. This is one reason why we find so much poor seed.

With two carrying, and two threshing, a great amount can soon be got out of the way. The straw can be used in some cases if not too strong, for bedding. Last season I burned all except a few loads of the fine.

Don't carry it a long distance; handle carefully, and handle only once. It must be threshed on the ground. By the time you would get it into the mow, there would be no seed upon it. I have tried the reaper, and unless cut in a damp condition, or in a green state, the loss of seed is too great to warrant its application.

Select a very dry or freezing time to hull. If prepared in the above manner, the clover-huller will hull a hundred bushels in a day.

The above is the manner of procedure with the writer. Of course, we are a slow people here, in most things, and would be glad to hear of a less expensive method of procuring the seed. By the price offered for the seed by some firms, we are inclined to think there must be a less expensive method, or else men work gratis.

Ontario, Canada.

Here is What E. T. Abbott Writes in Gleanings Regarding the North American.

I am with you for any point that will give us low rates all around, if the Nebraska friends are agreed Loyalty to them is the only thing I ask.

There is one point, however, which we should not neglect, and that is to know about a hall, and also what rates we would have to pay for hotel accomodations. If we should be forced on account of the crowd to put up with such an outfit as we had at Chicago, I for one would prefer to pay a little more, and be royally entertained, as we are sure to be at Lincoln. A man can afford to pay out a few dollars just to see how these good people up in Nebraska do things. I thought I did very well at St. Joseph, but I will miss my guess if they do not lay our meeting in the shade. You see, I know them—I have partaken of their hospitality a time or two.

IRRIGATION.

Officers of the State Irrigation Association:—President, A. G. Wolfenbarger Lincoln; Vice President, H. E. Babcock, Ord; Treasurer, Joseph Oberfelder Sidney; Secretary, James L. McIntosh, Sidney; State Lecturer, I. A. Fort North Platte. Next meeting will be held at Lexington, Neb.

"ANY FOOL CAN FARM."

Address of President James H. Canfield, of the Ohio State University, formerly Chancelor of the Nebraska State University, read before the Ohio Agricultural Convention, January 16, 1896.

I have suffered a good deal because of the publication of the title of what little I have to say this afternoon. I have been asked whether I propose to present a short autobiography of my past experience; and I have been questioned as to whether I was going to detail here the way we did in Kansas and Nebraska, the two States that I had the honor to represent for nearly twenty years. I have been asked a great many uncomfortable things in regard to this title, and so I feel bound to tell you where I got my text. It is not one hundred years ago nor a thousand miles from this place, that I was passing in the corridor of a hotel which was quite unusually thronged just at that time with "gentlemen of distinction," and I heard in tones of contempt and disgust, and possibly distrust, the sentence which I choose to speak from this afternoon, "Any fool can farm.

Now, that was such an original idea and it was expressed in such a forcible way, that I stopped, and turning, looked at the man to see who it was. I backed away against a column in the rotunda of the hotel and looked at that man for some time. He was a well dressed man, apparently an intelligent man. He had a commanding forehead and a commanding beard, both of which mean a great deal in this world. (Laughter). He seemed to be a man of the world. He seemed to have been among men and seemed to know the ways of the world. I should have said that he was an experienced man in many directions. Presently a gentleman whom I knew passed me and I said to him quietly, "Do you know who that gentleman is?" "Yes," he said, "that is Mr. So-and-so." I said, "What is he?" "He is an attorney," he said. "He is a candidate for the Legislature from a certain district."

Now, it seemed to me that under the circumstance that was a statement which I might very well take up and present, if not controvert, at this meeting of gentlemen who are engaged in agriculture. First, I want to know what that man had in his mind when he spoke of a fool. There are fools. There is no question about that at all. I do not suppose for a moment that he meant the man whose mind is a blank, whose

eye is expressionless, whose face is immobile, who walks with open mouth and hanging tongue, who seems to be the saddest imitation of man upon the earth. I do not suppose that he meant the idiot. I do not suppose that he had in mind at that time what was called Solmon's fool. Solomon talked a great deal about fools. Solomon's fool was a smart fool—a fool who said, "There is no God," and chasing after women went down to hell, and did other smart things equally bright and equally commendable. That was Solomon's fool; what we call in common parlance "a smart aleck." If Solomon lived in this day he would use that expression.

I do not suppose that this gentleman had that conception. What I think he had in mind was this: the unintelligent, the uninformed, the uneducated, the untrained, either special or general. Now the slow-witted, the blundering, the stupid sort of fellow, who cannot go from A to the end of the alphabet without a break in his reasoning or in his memory, and who cannot put two and two together and make four as the result and prove it, I think that is what was in his mind. And I simply feel that it is almost criminal to take your time in asserting that such a man as that cannot farm, at least in Ohio, today. Such a man is utterly out of place on a farm in this country today, and, in fact, such a man has li tle place anywhere. I am sorry to say it, because it may seem harsh, and as though I am not sympathetic with such men. Such a man has very little place in the economy of this country today; in a country with a school house in walking distance of every farm. And that is the most marvelous thing that is known in this century. It is a thing that we do not often stop to consider. A country with 60,000,000 to 65,000,000 of people with a school house with an open door, supported by the government, within walking distance of every farm. In a country like that, a country in which the Sta tes have a complete State system, from the very lowest grades up to the high schools of the townships and cities, and on to the universities through to graduation—in a country that gathers at its universities the best expert men who are continually furnishing information the latest and best, on topics of interest to you. In a country with the press at your door every morning, with the news of the day delivered to you fresh at your tea table; in a country with the electric telegraph and telephone, and the electric and steam car; in such a country, I am sorry to say it, but it is true, a man who by nature or neglect remains slow witted and careless and untrained is lost in the struggle. It is in the very nature of things necessary that it should be true. We may sympathize with him just as much as we please, and we ought to sympathize with him a great deal, but this world, this part of the world, is moving on too fast to stop and wait for

him to keep up with the procession. He might possibly have done very well and very fairly and very comfortably in the day of the ox-cart, but he does not do very well in the day of the trolley-car. In that day he might live fairly comfortable and occupy a fairly reputable position, but to-day, gentlemen, with all the advantages that are offered to him, with the richness of the past poured out for him, with the State behind him anxious to serve, with every possibility lying within his power for the mastery of all things—to-day if he fails to master them at the outset he is lost at the beginning of the struggle.

That is true of farmers, because it is peculiary true that in farming there is a certain kind of individuality and a certain kind of intelligence needed that is hardly found elsewhere except in the mastery of other occupations or other professions. Let me give you a gingle illustration. I once went into a great steel foundry, and there I saw a certain man whose simple duty it was to watch intently the heated metal and when the refuse came to the surface to skim it quickly off. That was his sole occupation. And so I have been again and again in great machine shops and found men who were called expert workmen assigned to do a single thing; and while it did require a large amount of special training in that special direction, there was no demand for general intelligence, and the workman was himself constantly narrowed and shriveled and weakened by the very condition under which he was obliged to labor. He was simply a cog in the vast machinery That was all. There was hardly a similitude left there, if we regard the free play of the faculties of the mind, of that which makes a human being to-day.

In connection with this work of agriculture, it seems to me, more than anywhere else, is this demand for the free play of all the faculties and powers of the mind and body. I can only mention three or four lines in which what I have said is true. First, if you believe in the mastery of all the conditions of productions, see how absolutely essential it is that the man have that large intelligence and very quick mind. There is a certain kind of alertness that would be found absolutely necessary in any other trade or calling—in the learned professions. See how necessary it is that he should be able to understand and read signs and indications, that he should be able to catch quickly all that nature has to tell him. Just stop now for a moment in the midst of your busy lives, finding yourselves face to face with the question of production to-day in all lines and think what it means to each and all of you, the mastery of the conditions of the soil, the wisest and best conditions of fertilization of the ground. Every one of you can multiply it by almost thousands, and certainly by hundreds, and still find its ramifications and different lines of thought and activity.

How much more is required to-day than was required forty or fifty years ago? What is the market to-day, gentlemen, in which you buy and sell? There may no longer be any question that it is the market of the world. You are not able to limit your buying and selling to your immediate locality, as you were able to do only a few years ago. It was not only possible, but of necessity you were limited to certain localities. It was enough if you knew the market of your nearest town, or at least the largest town in your state. It was enough if you understood the conditions of buying and selling in your vicinity, practically competing with your neighbors and then alone, but to-day the markets of the world are more and more determining just what you shall receive for your products of the farm. If it is not true of the world, it is true of the United States, which in itself is a magnificent empire, one of such diversity of interests, one of such diversity of conditions that it is impossible for the narrow-minded man and slow-moving man to take hold of the great questions and decide them or control them in any way whatever or to fit himself to do so. He cannot do it. He must be quick about it, wide between the eyes; he must have a good memory and be able at all times to take advantage of that which is last and latest. How can a man who does not know how to use the telephone and telegraph and telegrams, how can a man who does not know the value of the daily papers but who receives all his information through the weekly paper, complete with active and aggressive men? The man who stays upon his farm during the entire week, who comes to town Saturday to market something perhaps, puts himself into the hands of men who are in communication with the world. He puts his weekly paper into his pocket, goes home, does chores on Saturday night; rises the next morning, gets his work off his hands, gets his wife to help him clean his clothes, then sits down behind the kitchen fire, pulls out his weekly paper and gets the news. Why it is as far behind the times, as far as practical value to him is concerned, as it was when on the eastern coast it was six weeks and even longer before we knew what was being done across the water. No man can live to-day in any true sense of the word who touches the world as carelessly as that. How can such a man face all the conditions that are continually confronting him if he is unable to reason clearly and quickly and accurately from premise to conclusion? Think of the thousand and one problems that are the questions of the day for those who like to sit down and talk about them, that are questions in the sense of a day's return for a day's labor, questions that mean what you shall have this month as your return for your labor. Think of these questions of the day which touch you closely and so sharply and so injuriously if let alone, and then think of the fact that so very

many of us seem perfectly willing to turn them over for solution to that marvel of marvels in this country, the gentleman who has gone to Congress. Just fancy how unwilling we are, often positively unwilling to exercise our own thinking powers and our own intelligence and how completely willing we are that he should for us. We are constantly relegating these things to certain places and people as though they did not belong to the whole people of the country.

It is simply impossible that this country can be and remain what it would be if the men who are connetced with the soil, who must be the foundation of all prosperity of the country, are to remain, or fancy that they can safely remain, ignorant.

There is only one more direction in which I urge upon you a certain kind of intelligence which we do not all posess. Men in this country of free speech and free instruction should at least make themselves masters of their mother tongue. A man should at least be able to speak upon his feet, should be able to write and should be able to read. I do not mean write his name. I do not mean to sign his name to a deed. I do not mean to be able to read as I have seen some gentlemen read, by spelling the words as they go, but I mean that he should be able to take from the printed page the thought of another and hold it. There are very few of us who can do that as we ought to do it. I speak of this mastery of one's mother tongue because it is the way in which great ideas and lasting treasures of the mind and the best results of investigation and the real scientific thought and investigation, are conveyed to us. You can no longer declaim against book learning in a day when book learning means the mastery of the best thoughts of the best men are perpetuated from day to day and year to year and generation to generation by the printed page. And so a man is a weak man to-day, in a pitifully weak condition, who cannot stand up and say what he feels to be true,

I once sat in an audience of technically trained men and one was reading a paper, and he read statement after statement which I felt was not true, but I was not technically trained and could not answer it. And beside me sat a technically trained man who said to me, "That fellow is lying. He has not stated a single word or statement yet that cannot be controverted." And I said, "Get up and say so," and he said, "I can't;" and he lost that which would be of inestimable value to him, and he had that sense of weakness which must have cut him to the very heart. No man in this country ought to be so illtrained and ignorant that he could not stand in the presence of his fellow men and speak pointedly and directly on any question that is of interest to his fellow citizens and to himself. He should master his mother tongue.

I am postive that the "fool" of my friend cannot farm; and I am positive that the welfare of this country hereafter, as all in the past, will depend largely, if not entirely upon the intelligence and quick-wittedness and the strength of purpose and deliberateness and wisdom of counsel from those who touch the soil as you touch it every day.

The Nebraska Bee Keeper

Published Monthly.

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

L. D. STILSON, -:- -:- EDITOR.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Official Organ of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association.

Entered at the postoffice as second class matter.

Officers of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association 1896:—President, A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio; Vice Pres., Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn, Ont; Secretary, Dr. A. B. Mason, Auburndale, O.; Treasurer, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich. The next meeting will be held at Lincoln, Neb.

Officers of the Neb. State Bee Keepers Association:—Pres., E. Whitcomb; Vice Pres., H. E. Heath, Lincoln; Sec. and Treas., L. D. Stilson, York.

Not for several years has Nebraska donned her suit of green in as fine style as this season. March was cold and the season backward but with April came rains and warmer weather and the middle of the month finds vegetation far in advance of common seasons. Central and western Nebraska seldom have rains in the Spring before May 1st but this year abundant rains have fallen all over the state and receiving in the Central part of the State about 12 inches for the month an amount greater than hardly known for April. What our crop will be, of course, is uncertain, but with wheat and rye heading out these closing days of the month it certainly looks like prosperity. The Bee-Keeper has certainly reason to be hopeful as never before. Last October we predicted an abundant honey crop for '96. The outlook now certainly justifies the assertions then made. White clover is coming on and will be in blossom in another 30 days. Alfalfa and sweet clover are both showing blossom buds with us now. At least 15 days earlier than ever before and as is well seeded to these clovers we say again get ready to have stored the greatest honey crop ever gathered in Nebraska.

The seasonable rains have filled the ground with water so that little irrigation is necessary just now, but the wise man will still be prepared to give his ground an extra wetting in July and August.

The annual report of the Nebraska Bee-Keepers' Association for 1895 has been issued from this office. Persons wishing copies can have them by sending for them if they do not forget the postage.