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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

Vol. 4.

March, 1893.

No. 3.

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Stilson & Sons, Editors and Publishers

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year

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Half a Million Lbs. Sold in Thirteen Years. Over \$200,000 in Value.

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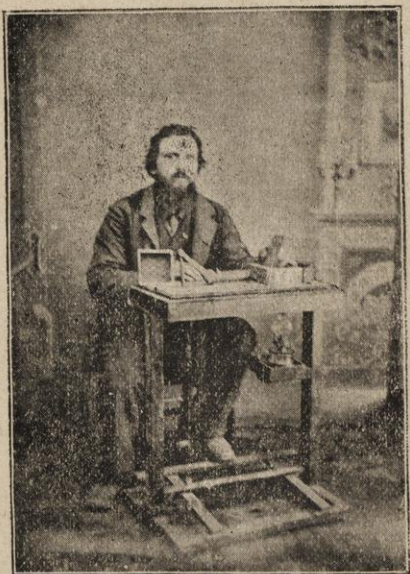
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HENRY STEWART, WAUZEEKA, WIS.



Charles White.

THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

Vo. 4.

March, 1893.

No. 3.

Bees on the Farm.

By E. Kretchmer, written for the York Co. Farmers' Institute.

My friends you know the old maxim "a penny saved is a penny earned," and to my knowledge there is no place where this maxim applies more than on a farm. You keep some poultry with comparatively little cost, and you well know that without them considerable would waste, rot in the ground, and be lost; and farther consider how much would be wasted if you did not keep a few hogs.

Now my friends, has it ever occurred to you, that more than that, goes to waste in the loss of honey because you have not the bees to gather it? have you not spent clean, hard earned cash for syrup, nearly always adulterated with glucose that injures the health of yourself and family? It seems I hear some one say, oh! there are not enough flowers near me for bees. Let us stop and analyze your query. It has been repeatedly stated and proved that there was not a section of ground in Iowa that would not produce on an average 1,000 pounds of honey per year; and from numerous correspondents I am lead to believe that Nebraska exceeds

that amount; its waste fields of Hearts-Ease (also called Smart-weed,) yields an abundance of excellent honey at a time when most of eastern localities are feeding preparatory for wintering.

White clover, the great honey plant, is spreading westward; bees even gather honey where flowers do not exist, the partridge pea yields nectar from glands at the leaf joint, willow, maple and boxelder furnish sweets for bees, and frequently honey is gathered from the juices of freshly cut grain stubble, and corn tassles always furnish some honey in this locality.

How can I get a successful start with bees? Before you undertake to do any thing on the farm, you always prepare your plan HOW and WHEN to do it, and then you go and do it; therefore first of all procure some of the standard books now published on bee-culture; "Langstroth on the Honey Bee revised by Dadants, A. B. C. in Bee Culture, and others and several others are good authority," employ some of the long winter evenings to read up, in the spring or summer secure from two to five colonies, (not over five to begin with,) purchase them near you, so as to avoid heavy express charges, and to begin right, insist that the hives and frames

are of standard Langstroth size, even if they cost a trifle more than bees in other kinds of hives, if you have to go away to get bees purchase pure Italians, two comb Nucleus in size. Order some Dovetailed (or Dovetailed Chaff) hives which are of Langt. size, by freight; have the frames wired and filled with brood foundation. The hives should be ordered in advance, as they, going by freight, are slower in arriving than the bees, which must always go by express; upon receiving them get them at once where they are to remain for the season. Open, set the combs with adhering bees in one side of the hive, set the division board next to them, close the hive and shake the remaining bees from the box in which the bees arrived near the entrance of the hive, in the evening feed them some sugar syrup, and if no honey can be gathered at that time, feeding should be continued.

In a few days the combs may be moved apart and a frame filled with comb foundation placed between, by using that style of Langstroth frame, called self-spacing Hoffman frame, you will always know how far to place them apart, by sliding them up until the frame ends touch. As soon as this comb foundation is well drawn out, the combs should spread again until your hive is filled; at the same time during leisure moments look up certain points in your bee-book, and apply the directions with due intelligence, so as to obtain theory and practice as you proceed and you will be surprised at your success by the quantity of choice honey such a colony will store, during the hearts ease season in the fall. We have mentioned the *feeding* of bees; the omission at the proper time is one of the principle causes of failure. Could you for a moment think of omitting the feeding of your other farm stock for a single day? No, and certainly see to it that they have their daily food, because it pays to do so. Bees require but little feeding compared with your other

stock and what little is fed pays more so than the other. By the use of a hive having a bottom board similar to the one used in the Dovetailed hive, 25 colonies of bees can be fed in spring for stimulating purposes in five minutes after the syrup is prepared, by tipping the hive slightly backward, then, with the syrup in a coffee pot or water sprinkler pour about a half pint in at the entrance near night; then again you should see *early in October* if your bees have enough store for winter, (from 25 to 40 pounds per colony) if not, feed them up as rapidly as possible so that it may be properly evaporated and sealed in their combs before cold weather prevents it; to often this is neglected until too late, and the loss of the colony is the result, when a few minutes of timely attention would have prevented it.

Winter and spring *protection* should not be neglected. I would advise the use of double-walled chaff-packed hives. The new Dovetailed chaff hive weighs but about 2 pounds more than a single-walled hive. Even these we prefer to have in a cellar or earth cave and there let them remain, dark and undisturbed long after winter has passed (last spring until April 26th.) if they have been properly prepared in the fall, there is nothing gained by setting them out early, let them remain until they can work on the bloom of elm, plum or willow; whilst if set out too early, many of the old bees being weak, will not be able to withstand the cold spring air, and not return to the hive, leaving the brood unprotected and spring-dwindling is the usual result.

And now in closing let me reiterate, get a few colonies of bees, enough to gather the sweets produced within their reach, enough to supply your family with the most health preserving food in existence; quit buying glucose health-destroying syrup; but "make haste slow," until by experience you have learned how and when to give them the required care.

E. Kretschmer

Red Oak, Ia

Score another Victory for the Union.

Friend Stilson.

Your readers will no doubt be interested in the result of the tussel with the enemies of the pursuit in Missouri your neighboring State. Will you kindly allow me space for the following recital of facts, especially as a similar onslaught is made in your State.

Surely the apiarists of Nebraska as well as other States have a right to feel proud of the achievements of the "Union for defence."

On Jan. 16th, as soon as the Senate of Missouri got to work; Senator Sebree introduced the following, entitled, "An Act to regulate the keeping of Honey-Bees in Cities, Towns and Villages in this State, and to provide a penalty for its violation." The full text is as follows:

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

SECTION 1.—No person shall own, keep or have in his possession or under his control, any honey-bees in boxes, bee-gums or other thing of confinement in any city, town or village in this State, whether organized under general or special charters, nearer than fifty (50) feet from the line of any adjacent real estate owner, or person in possession of such adjacent property.

SEC. 2.—Any person violating the provisions of the preceding section shall upon conviction be fined for each offence not less than ten nor more than twenty dollars, and each offence shall be deemed a period of one week after one notice in writing shall have been given to the owner or person in possession of the bees to remove the same to a distance provided in the first section of this act; and if after notice the owner or owners or parties in possession of said bees, it shall be the duty of the sheriff of the county, or the constable of the township, in which the offence is committed to remove the said bees to the said distance of fifty feet, and for

reasonable compensation for his services he shall have an act of debt against the owner or person in possession of said bees, and the said bees, nor the boxes or bee-gums, or thing in which they shall be kept, shall be exempt from the execution to pay the judgment founded upon such claim for said service for removing the same as aforesaid.

SEC. 3.—If the said honey-bees cannot be removed and kept in boxes, bee-gum or other thing to a greater distance than fifty feet from the line of the adjacent owner or proprietor, as provided by section 1 of this Act, then in such event the keeping of them in such city, town or village is absolutely prohibited, and after ten days, notice in writing to remove the same, the owner or person in possession or control of them shall be punished upon conviction, as provided by Section 2 of this Act.

Here is a clear case of prohibition of the pursuit in all "Cities, Towns and villages" in Missouri, if it should become a law, for a bee-keeper must have OVER 100-foot lot to be able to keep his bees "fifty feet from the line of any adjacent real-estate owner, or person in possession of such adjacent property." But few bee-keepers would have more than 50 feet in all.

Mr. W. S. Dorn Blazer, ex-Secretary of the Missouri Bee-Keepers' Association, sent the "Bill" to the manager of the Union, and instantly the Decision of the Supreme Court of Arkansas was brought into play like a Gatling-gun, and copies of it were sent to the members of the Legislature and to the Governor. Letters were written to them advising them not to allow it to pass, showing that it would be a dead letter, as it was unconstitutional, and would be so construed by the Courts, as they had the precedent of the Arkansas Supreme Court to guide them.

The Hon. R. L. Taylor, President of the Union, was appealed to, and he

By strictly attending to his business, he has succeeded in producing a very fine strain of Italians, and we believe, has come as near breeding bees to work on red clover as any man in America, and probably sells as many queens each year as all other Nebraska breeders put together. His section press and foundation starter is now acknowledge the best on the market. It is his own invention and is a valuable addition to the apicultural machinery.

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Sealed Covers vs Chaff Cushions.

No more Sealed Covers for us thank you.

Last season there was considerable discussion through the papers as to the merits of sealed covers over chaff cushions, or absorbent covering. Our own experience had never been favorable to a tightly sealed cover, but as the system had so many strong advocates we thought to try them again, and last fall we took seven average colonies and in all respects packed them the same as others, except that the covers were left tight down.

All seemed to have wintered well until Feb. 12th when all our bees were out and again on the fore-noon of the 13th. On the evening of the 13th, it turned cold and at daylight on the 14th, the thermometer had touched zero mark.

Our apiary is so located that it is well protected, by an 8 foot, tight fence cedar and forest trees, high ground and buildings, opening to the east, and no hard winds strike from any direction, it is a very warm place, but when zero weather comes on so quickly it catches us perhaps worse than these not as much sheltered, and as a consequence when such sudden changes come our bees are spread out over the combs and more sensitive to the cold.

On Feb. 18th, bees were flying again and on investigation found five of the seven colonies with sealed covers, dead, frozen stiff, the cluster not compact, and frost on the combs about two inches

down, while all others in good condition, and no sign of frost on a single comb covered by chaff cushions.

Sealed covers may do for some localities, but please excuse us as it has always been a costly experiment and we don't care to try it again.

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Our Way of Looking at it.

Some of the would-be and think-them-selves, leaders in apiculture, seem to think that some of the *smaller* Bee-Journals and writers don't amount to much, *because* they don't hitch on to and advocate every theory advanced by some of their stripe."

Friendly criticism, in a spirit of fairness is all right, but when by direct reference to certain papers, "that they are liable to die at any time, and wonder why they have lived so long," by these same gentry, is certainly a slur unbecoming and unworthy of gentlemen, but as styles and fashions originate in the East we expect egotism and self-esteem, or, as we westerners term it, "big head," originated there as well, and in its western trip will soon reach the Miss. River.

As for ourselves, we have never cared to print a paper for the sake of putting in the big "I," neither do we care to print a big paper filled with articles advocating theories and practices which had to be contradicted by an equally large array of "larnin'" on the other side.

Life is too short, and we Nebraska "boys" have something else to do than to quarrel with our neighbors, or tell when to die, or try to tear them down that we might profit by their downfall.

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We have a "crow to pick" with Mr. Kretchmer, when on page 28, this issue he advocates feeding bees by pouring the syrup on the floor. How would he like it were his wife to fix up a good plate of soup and pour it on the floor for him, "guess not much".

The man who feeds bees that way is the one who is enquiring how to keep the "ants" away from his bee hives. Do you see? Use good feeders and be cleanly and neat and you will have less trouble from ants or robbers.

—THE—

Nebraska Beekeeper.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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

Stilson & Sons, Editors and Publishers.

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

York, Nebraska.

Have you attended any meetings of bee keepers this winter? Do you belong to a society whose aim is the advancement of bee culture? If you don't you certainly ought to, and if there is no society near you, go to work and organize one, get better acquainted with your neighbors and be ready for the summer's work in the apiary.

The editors of some of the eastern Bee Journals commenced fooling with glucose adulation scheme, evidently not knowing the thing was "loaded."

After a little time, they found they were in just such a plight as we sometimes used to find ourselves when hunting squirrels, when carefully climbing to the top of the fence and we were not on the *right* side and obliged to back down.

The next meeting of the York Co., Bee Keepers Association will be held at the Court House in York, on Wednesday, March 15th. at 10 o'clock. We want it distinctly understood that this means only 60 minutes past 12 o'clock, this time was agreed upon on account of time of afternoon trains, upon which some of our members wish to leave. Come early, prepared to stay long and have a good time. Our bees will soon be at work. why not we as well, let every Bee Keeper in the county attend.

J. M. Carr, of Harvard, has rented his farm and gone into town where he can give his entire time to the supply and queen rearing business. His new

catalogue is out giving prices of goods

When Bee Keeping does not pay it is generally found to be the fault of the owner. Either he does not understand his business, or does not give it the proper attention.

The most northern paper in the world is said to be *The Nordkap*, published at Hammerstien. The editor and his assistants work in a small wooden house roofed with turf. The paper is sent to its subscribers, who live on the shores of the various fiords, by boat. We may remark that *The Nordkap* would not be a good medium in which to advertise Bee-Supplies.

Sealed Covers again.

"Gleanings" of Mar. 1st. gives Bro. Root's experience with sealed covers. it so differs from our own that we give it, as location or surroundings may make the difference.

"Of the colonies under absorbing cushions, nine are dead so far (Feb. 27) this winter. Those under sealed covers can not be readily examined without breaking the sealing, and, of course, we cannot tell how such colonies compare with those under absorbing cushions; but we shall know in the spring. So far as we can determine from the *appearances* at the entrances of colonies under sealed covers, all is going well. Of the nine dead ones mentioned at the outset, four died from dysentery, and the rest apparently froze to death, being very weak in the fall. It is evident that the very severe winter so far will go a little harder with outdoor-wintered colonies. Those in the cellars or repositories will winter fully as well if not better than last year, or, in fact, during three or four preceding open winters."

Will Bro. R. tell us, were the weak colonies put under cushions and the strong ones under sealed covers, or, were all alike?

March, is marching on, bees are still "prisoners of war"ing elements only gathering pollen on red cedar a part of one afternoon.

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 Their Say, Then Ours.

American Gardening, has the following tribute to the out-going Secretary of Agriculture: "The Department of Agriculture has been characterized by four years of energetic and efficient administration. * * *

The vigorous and continuous management of this administration has given the Department a high place among the government bureaus. No branch of the public service employs greater scientific and executive talent, and none has produced more signal results in direct benefit to the people. Secretary Rusk has won the confidence of the entire country, and has set a high standard for his successor."

We detract nothing from the success of Sec. Rusk in saying that the "high standard," achieved by him will be maintained by his successor, who by his forty years work in Nebraska, has endeared himself to every agriculturist and horticulturist in the state. The Father of "Arbor Day," monuments are growing all over the state in his honor, and from our own acquaintance, with, and of him, we believe no man could have been selected to fill the position, more worthy, or more in touch, with the agricultural masses, than Hon. J. Sterling Morton, the new Secretary of Agriculture.

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 Management is of more importance than the selection of hives or situation in bee culture. No indolent person will succeed with bees, for care is one of the chief essentials to success in any branch of the business. With the best of appliances there will be only indifferant returns unless proper care is given at all times. Without this we are like olden

time people, compelling their captives to do certain work without proper materials. We have too many of these old persecutors in the bee business. The lazy man will allow the accumulation of filth, which is sure destruction to the bees. Laziness and successful bee culture don't go well together.

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 The Red Cedar.

This valuable evergreen is one whose culture is neglected here in our State. It is one of the most hardy of the evergreen trees, withstanding the severe, cold winters, and the hot, dry seasons. It is a native, and when once started, makes a rapid growth. They are a tree that, with proper care, may be transplanted at various times of the year; spring or early summer setting is perhaps the best, or set in the fall they will do well. The main thing is moisture for the roots, after being set, until they are established and new roots are formed. Where they are not close by, to give water when needed, the mulching is the best; straw, hay or manure put around the tree will do more good than water poured on the ground and which causes the soil to bake.

To get the best results, in setting, a small tree is the one. 6 to 12 in. high is better than the larger ones; they are cheaper, and a hundred or more can be easily sent by mail or express. In this way, the trees do not cost much, the labor of setting is the same as other trees, and when once started, they are a constant green the year round.

The Bee Keepers of Hamilton Co. Neb. will hold an all day meeting at the Court House in Aurora, on Thursday March 16th. for the purpose of organizing a County Society, and learning what they can from each other and whoever else they may chance to hear, L. D. Stilson, Secretary of the State Association will be there to answer questions as best he can and will talk, "bees," to the assembled people, we hope to see every bee-keeper in the county there. The morning session will begin at 10 o'clock, afternoon session at 2, P. M.

As spring approaches the seeds men and florists are sending out their Price Lists and Garden Annuals, and even the poor printer is not forgotten in this annual distribution of nice things, and among others J. J. Bell, of Flowers, N. Y. sends the finest, a whole flower garden of itself. It tells—well you just send your name and get one too and know all about it.

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There is money in good health. There is money in a beautiful home. There is money in commercial horticulture. There is pleasurable profit and profitable pleasure in all right gardening, whether it takes the form of ornamental planting, flower bordered lawns, window and conservatory gardening, or the culture of fruits, flowers and vegetables for market. All these phases of the highest type of living and working are wisely, broadly and practically treated in that beautiful magazine AMERICAN GARDENING: well styled "the \$3 magazine for \$1." for it comprises over 800 large pages and fully 600 fine illustrations per year.

There has been a change in the editorial management, by which Mr. Long has more time and opportunity to devote himself to his landscape-gardening specialties for the benefit of the AMERICAN GARDENING family; and the attractive editorship now again devolves upon Professor L. H. Bailey, who is perhaps the foremost of American horticulturists as writer and investigator. The magazine in 1893 will engage more editorial, contributinal and artistic talent than ever before. It will be more beautiful, more practical and more valuable.

The periodical will be just what its name indicates—an AMERICAN magazine of Gardening or Horticulture. it covers the *whole country* and the *whole subject*. Its province is *fruits, flowers, vegetables, ornamental gardening* and the *beauties of Nature*. The special contributors for the coming year embrace 100 carefully selected names from all parts of North America. These men and women are accurate observers, good cultivators and careful writers, and every thing of general interest which occurs in their respective localities will be given to our readers.

We aim at every thing that is *new, bright, inspiring, and useful*. The horticultural of the various States and

Provinces' the worlds fair, the homes of prominent men, the parks and pleasure grounds, the orchards, the amature gardens, the books, the work of experiment stations, and the scens which underlie all good gardening—these are the specialties for 1893. They will be discussed by such men as

John Burroughs,
Edwin Longsdale,
T. Greiner,
Prof. Van Deman,
P. J. Berckmans,
Charles Howard Shinn,

Michael Barker,
T. T. Lyon,
Parker Earle,
E. J. Hill,
Prof. Riley,
W. C. Strong.

and many others, whose names appear in the January issue. The price is only \$1 a year; 10 cents a copy. (The Rural Publishing Company, Times Building, New York.)

All subscribers for 1893 receive their Choice of *or all* of 17 new roses, Mr. Carman's *Rosa rugosa* hybrids; a Carman grape vine; a new early potato, originated by Mr. Carman, and seeds from 200 cross bred tomatoes, sure to contain valuable new varieties. Subscribers pay for the mailing only, amounting to only two to eight cents per item. These are all new varieties not sold by seedsmen, and, if placed on the market, could not be sold at less than \$10. They are given to subscribers sorely as a means of advertising the magazine.

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The Chinese are a very contrary people. They do everything what we would call, "backwards." Their compass points to the south instead of the north. The men wear skirts and the women trousers; while the men wear their hair long, the women coil theirs in a knot. The dressmakers are men; the women carry burdens. The spoken language is not written, and the written language is not spoken. Books are read backward, and any notes are inserted at the top. White is used for mourning, and the bridesmaids wear black—instead of being maidens these functionaries are old women. The Chinese surname comes first, and they shake their own hands instead of the hands of one whom they greet. Vessels are launched sideways, and horses are mounted from the off side. They commence their dinner with desert and end up with soup and fish.

The winter, so far has been a trying one for bees, which are being wintered on their summer stands.

The sudden and severe changes, have been such that wise indeed is he that could keep track and not get caught out.

The balmy air and bright sunshine of one day coaxing the bees to take a flight, then, when a few hours later the thermometer reaches zero or lower, catching the bees with their summer clothing on, they were apt to shiver at least.

There have been very few weeks this winter that our bees have not been flying, and consequently we expect them to use heavily on their stores, and unless bees are well looked after in this vicinity in the spring, and the light colonies fed, there will be empty hives when May-day comes. Lookout for the light colonies the first warm days, don't let any of them go hungry to bed. A little care and attention now may save what will be a valuable colony later.

"One of the most laudable examples of scientific enterprise that we have heard of lately, is set by the Botanical Seminar of Nebraska. Professor Bessey and his assistant and graduate students have undertaken, on their own responsibility, a botanical survey of the state, the plan of which, as well as a list of the officers and other workers, is given in a recent pamphlet. These gentlemen have a most inviting field before them and we shall expect interesting results. Meanwhile the University of Nebraska is to be congratulated in its having in at least one of its departments, a body of men with zeal to undertake, at their own cost, an important work, the responsibilities of which the state is not ready to assume.

If their University has a number of such departments, its future greatness is assured."

Stolen.



Around the evergreens you'll find our address. We are waiting for yours. Send it on a postal card. We want to show you our list of Evergreens, Forest trees Flowering shrubs and plants, adapted to all purposes for hedges, screens, wind breaks, timber culture. Tree claims Parks, Cemeteries, and ornamenting lawns windows and conservatories. Our stock is the largest and most complete. Best quality and lowest prices.

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