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## The busy bee. Vol 8, No 9 September, 1897

St. Joseph, Missouri: Rev. Emerson Taylor Abbott, September, 1897

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Vol. 8.

No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1897.



# THE BUSY BEE.

Successor to  
The Nebraska Bee Keeper.

Emerson Taylor Abbott,  
Editor and Proprietor.



Published the 15th  
of each Month at

St. Joseph, Mo.

Price, 50c Per Year.

A Monthly Journal devoted to  
Farm Bee Keeping, and other  
Minor Interests of Progressive  
Agriculture.



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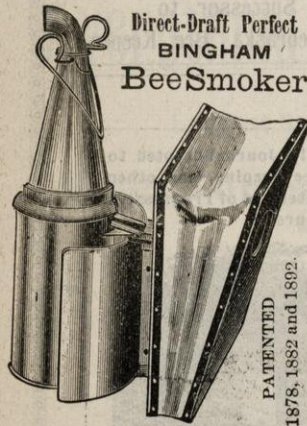
**LANGSTROTH ON THE HONEY-BEE--Revised.**

The Classic in Bee-Culture—Price, \$1.25, by Mail.

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Cuba, Kansas, Jan. 27, 1896.

Dear Sir?—I have used the Conqueror 15 years. I was always well pleased with its workings, but thinking I would need a new one this summer, I write for a circular. I do not think the four inch "Smoker Engine" too large. Yours,

W. H. EAGERTY.

Corning, Cal., July 14th, 1896.

I have used Bingham Smokers ever since they came out. Working from three to seven hundred colonies twelve months in the year. I ought to know what is required in a smoker. The Doctor 3 1/2 inch just received fills the bill. Respectfully,

O. W. OSBORN.

With a Bingham Smoker that will hold a quart of sound maple wood the bee-keepers' trials are all over for a long time. Who ever heard of a Bingham Smoker that was too large or did not give perfect satisfaction. The world's most scientific and largest comb honey producers of Bingham Smokers and Knives. The same is true of the world's largest producers of extracted honey. Before buying a smoker or knife hunt up its record and pedigree.

Please mention The Busy Bee.

T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.

# THE BUSY BEE

Published Monthly.

Vol. 8, No. 9.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

SEPTEMBER, 1897

## Nature's Lesson.

The pink apple blossoms is just out of reach,

Though you stand on the tips of your toes—

A lesson has Nature she wishes to teach  
You learn it before Autumn goes.

Strive not for the blossom, nor weep at defeat,

But patiently wait for a while—

All things come in time—and the moments are fleet,

Soon your frown will give place to a smile.

The blossoms will die, but the good fruit will grow,

It will ripen in sun and in rain,

The weight of the apple will bend the bough low—

And the waiting will be to your gain.

Seek not the bright buds that will fade in a day,

But await the sweet fruit God will send—

The buds may be high and be out of your way,

While the boughs at the harvest will bend.

—Ladies' Home Journal.

## My Old Neighbor and His Bees.

By George H. Stripp in the American Bee Journal.

The bee is a funny little creature, but she is too willing to poke her fun at other people's expense, and make some stinging remark which causes a person to feel a little smart.

I have a neighbor who keeps bees. He is also a funny fellow, although he is more than 80 years of age. Of course, he is too old to learn; man at that age knows it all, anyway. He has a way of keeping bees that's all his own, derived from the mature experience of antedeluvian days. He has, however,

been won over, by hook or crook, from the box-hive, and tinkers up some sort of a rickety imitation of a Langstroth hive, with Hoffman frames, by means of dull jack-knife and rusty bucksaw.

My first inspiration in bee-keeping came from this quaint old fellow; so did my first hive. I shall never forget it, for it was a nuisance which ruffled my temper more times than I can tell, and caused no end of trouble during the whole time it was in my yard. There was no bee-space above the frames, and the way the poor bees were squashed under the cover made my blood run cold till I got bee-sense enough to tack some strips on the top of the hive. But, even then, peace did not reign, for everything was wrong, and the frames would not fit other hives. At last, I transferred bees and comb to a newer and better hive, and, in cutting away the comb from the old frames, by an accidental scratch of the knife, I was astonished to find some of the top-bars filled with moth-larvae which had bored into the wood and had been waxed over by the bees in such a manner as to make discovery extremely unlikely. It is needless to say they were the black bees. The frames went into the fire, instantan, and I thanked my stars I had made the change.

But to return to my amusing neighbor! He keeps his colonies (some twenty in number), crowded together on a long board resting on two end supports. This rough bench bends down in the middle with the weight of the bees in a way that I know must be awfully uncomfortable to the poor creatures, to say nothing of the unpleasantness of being very near neighbors to one another. The hives are of all kinds, sizes and shapes; old, dirty and unkempt, with boxes boards and all sorts of traps piled atop

of them. For these and many other reasons his bees have the reputation, well deserved, of being the crossiest bees in Christendom.

The only thing that troubles the old gentleman is "those pesky, black robber-bees that come down from the mountains" to steal his honey. Of course, his own bees are good Christian bees, strict observers of the ten commandments. His bees never steal! It is the wicked black bee of the mountains—those shiny fellows; although his bees are about as black as good religious bees can be.

Of course, like more wicked bees, his bees swarm at the proper season; in fact, they swarm all over the season and the country when they get started, and, because of their honeyed (?) dispositions they make things lively in the neighborhood. Except for the fun, the neighbors would wish they had never been born—the bees, of course. Almost every day, and several times a day, the old gentleman may be seen and heard out in the field beating a tin pan among the bees to "call them down." Although on such occasions he usually wears a long, dirty traly piece of faded orange-yellow "skeeter" bar, full of holes, he brags of his lack of fear of bee-stings. The youthful hirsute adornment of his head has long since past away, and instead thereof he covers his shining bald pate with a wig whose color is of that significant hue suggestive of a jute bag.

Before we knew better, we rushed out to help him settle his swarms, emboldened by pleasant experience in settling our own bees, and imbued with a desire to be neighborly. But, after several severe battles, we ceased "to have went." After the first onslaught, the bees settled us, and we could be seen scattering ourselves to all points of the compass, clearing the adjacent air with indescribable hastiness of demeanor at variance with the usual dignity of bee-keepers, and leaving naught behind us save a blue streak—of exclamation points and some painful recollections.

On one particular occasion the old gen-

tleman held his ground for quite awhile. Suddenly, however, the soft music of his timbrel ceased, and a retrospective view could be seen of him spreading his tracks around the barn with the gaudily colored netting streaming behind like the loose habiliments of a dancing Dervish. In the wild scramble the wig had lost itself, and a little later the owner was found in the barn clawing mad bees from his whiskers and out of his sleeves and pantaloons. Presently the door of his house opened, and his good wife launched forth such a tirade—I really believe the poor old fellow wished the bees would sting some more. Botted down it was about like this "Now, pah, you'd better come in and let them bees alone, or they'll sting you so bad you'll git blood-pizen, sure." To this the patient old man solemnly replied, "Mother, we still live."

He generally monkeys with his bees about dark, as he thinks they are quieter then. He frequently comes over to borrow my smoker, which he considers a grand thing; but not grand enough to own one himself. To let him tell the tale, "Them bees are just full of honey," and no doubt the overflow is running down their little legs. But he doesn't let them stay full long, and if it were not for our generally open winters they would surely starve to death. The honey he does secure is usually so musty that it is almost unsaleable beside better goods. He shipped some to the city once; but, like the cat, it came back, much the worse for wear—the commission men wouldn't handle it, principally because of its condition through bad packing.

When the old gentleman examines his hives he cautiously prys a cover off, peeps in, puts the cover on, bears his weight upon it—"squash!" go a score of bees into eternity. Such a thing as sliding the cover on never occurred to him, and his place is too crowded for manipulation of any kind. I often wonder if, when the time comes, the hand of death will be laid upon him so heavily as to squash him into Eternity,

or will the lid be slid gently on as he sinks into the quiet, peaceful slumber of the great beyond?

Santa Clara County, Cal.

### Get Off the Honey.

Don't leave comb honey on the hives till October. Just as soon as white clover stops yielding, where that is the principal source, all surplus honey should be taken from the hives. If left on it becomes, to be sure, richer and riper in taste, but looks go a great way with comb honey, and snowy whiteness is a great desideratum. If left on, too, the bees will begin to empty out the honey and carry it down into the brood chamber, which may not be a bad thing for the bees, but it spoils very much the appearance of the honey. If buckwheat or other fall flowers yield later, surplus receptacles can be put on again, but it is better to keep the light and dark honey separate. For some reason the bees use a great deal more propolis or bee glue late in the season than early, and if comb honey is left on late sometimes they will put a coating of bee glue over more or less of the surface of the comb. Perhaps you had better go to your hives right now, and see whether the surplus ought not to be removed.—Exchange.

### Bees at Fairs.

One of the attractions at agricultural fairs is the "bee exhibit" shown at many state and county fair. At one fair there was an exhibit of honey, wax and bees by an enthusiastic woman beekeeper—a beekeeper of energy, tact and business instincts. Her soul was in the work and of course she was successful, for success comes to such invincible souls.

She took up beekeeping, she said, as an experiment, became discouraged and thought she must give it up, but persevered and won, and now has occupation (raising small fruits and keeping bees) that is both entertaining and pro-

fitable. At the fair she talked and sold honey, did a good deal of both, and had a crowd of eager listeners around her. She was not loud or demonstrative, far from it, but merely answered questions.

She had been a school teacher, and when her health failed, was told that she must go out of doors to work or do something that would give her exercise and the pure air of heaven. When she left the school, her friends predicted that she would not live more than a year at most. Now she is full of health, strong and almost robust. In a quiet way she told this to the men and women that gathered around.

That is what agricultural fairs are for or ought to be—to exhibit all the processes of agriculture and allied industries and the results of their operations. It is only within a few years that the results of beekeeping have been shown at fairs, and even now in some states bees or their product have no place at fairs in the annual exhibit. People are slow, apparently, to appreciate bees or their work, and their work or a part of it is important, necessary to every cultivator of the soil, namely, their fertilization of flowers. The more perfect the fertilization, the greater is the product of all flowering plants.

It is true that the premiums at fairs for bees and "bee things" may be few and small, but in some cases this is due to the beekeepers themselves. Managers of fairs may not be, are not usually beekeepers, and will not think of bees or premiums for them unless their attention is called to them. The beekeepers must ask for premiums and give the fair managers no rest till they grant them.

First of all, let the beekeepers in any place organize. A society, however small, has always more influence than individuals. At one state fair a few years ago, only one dollar was offered as a premium for an exhibit of honey. Today the premium list is increased to more than one hundred dollars and this was the result of organization and demand upon the fair managers. Nothing

goes in this world without effort on the part of someone to bring to the notice of someone.

There is an object in exhibiting bees and their work; it advertises the bee-keeper; it helps every way as much as the exhibition or other things, and it stimulates emulation in improvement of methods and progress generally. In the turning over of industries, in the search for employment, an exhibit of bees may suggest—may show the way to some man or woman of getting a living. Let beekeepers everywhere organize, ask for representation at fairs and for premiums and get them.—George Appleton in Wisconsin Agriculturist.

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### LET COUNTRY CONTENTMENT REIGN.

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Few of the farmer folk fully comprehend the full import of the phrase, "I can't make a living on the farm; if I was in the city or village on a salary I could do better," for few stop to think of the fierce strife going on there all the time for place, and that while on the farm the greater half of the living costs actually nothing, in the city and town every one of these items costs full price, and in money; and when the house rent is paid and the balance is struck, it is found that it has taken the sharpest of figuring to make a living. Few know, when they are complaining of shortened means on the farm; what shortened income means in the town, and that the things which are most abundant and health-giving in the country, and which one has only to put for the hand to secure, are things which must be paid for in the city. In the country the question is not "who is my neighbor." In the country children are not obliged to play on the housetops. There is little recognition by the dissatisfied ones in the country of what dependence upon some one else for an income means. **It lasts during the pleasure and business success of the one, or the "good behavior," measured by another man's ca-**

prices, and health of the other. When the latter fails, the income stops. On the farm crops grow, the cow gives the same messes of milk and the income keeps up, even if the man has gone to a picnic, or the doctor has him in charge for a week or a month.

All over the country are business wrecks and abandoned works and mills. The salaried men who worked in them are scattered, and the scattering took off their little remaining stores to transport them elsewhere, and support them and their families until the wheel of fortune brought up another salary payer to their relief; but on the farm, though the income may be small, there are none of these anxious, waiting hours. In the country there is none of that crowding that fairly stifles; there is absolute freedom of home, and development of home life. There are not flats with their heterogeneous mixtures of family life; rooms let to "roomers," whom no one knows, and so on through the list, the object being to make a living. Many a man on the farm complains his income is small, and looks at Rockefeller or Carnegie, and wonders why he, like them, is not worth his millions, and never thinks that it takes millions now as capital to earn millions. The farms are concerns of small capital, and are not worked as a rule with organized labor, as are the great mills. On the farm one man works at everything going. In the mills he only does one thing, and that day after day, and for the year. He is not required to even think! On this little farm there has been an income and living in proportion to its value as compared with the mill that put the latter out of comparison. A living has been made, taxes paid, family clothed and schooled, the poor and the gospel supported, luxuries bought, a carriage to ride in, machinery bought to "save backbone," and here and there a little sum is laid away in the savings bank against a "rainy day." The farm would not represent \$10,000 all told. What would a like sum in the bank or invested in manufacturing, realize? Four or five hundred dollars,

at most; and what would that buy in the way of a home and living in town, as compared with the living and privileges on the farm? Let us farm-dwellers be content at least until we have evidence that the living of the man in the city is as abundant and secure as is ours, and that nature's donations to him exceed that to us.—Aurora, New York, Tribune

### BUMBLE BEES INTOXICATED.

In a late issue of The Journal of Botany are details of Mr. T. L. Williams' experiments on bees. He says that these insects often get drunk. Their intoxicating tippie is the honey produced by the crowded flowers of the capitulate heads of certain compositae and dipsaceae. When the stage of intoxication is reached it is indicated by rolling on the back, striking the legs wildly in the air and general helplessness. The bees rapidly recovered from the effects, and in most cases were eager to repeat the debauch; but one individual which had been shut up in a vasculum with copious supplies of centaurea scabiosa manifested the next morning a disgust, raising its head and forelegs as high as it could above the plants, and then hurrying away as soon as released. The most dissolute is the neuter of the bombus lapidarius. It is suggested that the rolling consequent on the intoxication is a means of distributing the pollen to other florets of the same head.—Ex.

Glad to know of at least one case where a "drunk" is productive of some good.—Editor.

### Agriculture in the Public Schools.

The following was written for Coleman's Rural World, but as it is just in line with the ideas which the editor of the Busy Bee has been offering on this subject, we take great pleasure in reproducing it:

Editor: I noticed recently in an agricultural publication a communication in which the writer set forth some reasons why agriculture should not be

taught in the public schools, the principle one of which was that this should not be done because "the prime object of our common schools is to educate the youth, to fit them for the intelligent exercise of the duties of citizenship." I fail to see how imparting to a youth information which will give him a clearer conception of the wonderful laws of nature which underlie the operations of the farm and which, if understood, will give the farmer a vast advantage over the one who is wholly ignorant of them, will, to the slightest degree, unfit him for exercising his duties of citizenship, unless the thought was that by opening up to the mind of the boy this more interesting field of thought and labor, he would be lost to peanut politics. It is quite probable that a system of instruction in our public schools in a few of the principles of the sciences which underlie agriculture and thus form the basis of all prosperity and wealth would have a marked tendency to decrease the number of street corner grocery store and county-seat-saloon politicians, who can argue for hours concerning the monetary system of the country, but who cannot tell what it costs them a bushel to raise wheat; who can dilate with indignant eloquence on the wastage of the people's money by public officers, but know nothing about the hundreds of dollars worth of plant food that leaches out of their barn yards every year; who can talk knowingly about a depleted public treasury and tax-burdened people, but know nothing of why their land has become impoverished, and how much it costs them to house their farm and who expounds on the beauties of civil reform, but to whom such terms as "rotation of crops," "balanced rations" and "per cent. of butter fat" are known only to the extent of arousing their contempt for "book farmers."

That the effort of awakening an interest in agriculture to the extent of making one love the farm and fitting him to make a better living on it than he could by plodding on through a life of stupid discontent with his lot will be to di-



voice the farmer from public affairs, is a conclusion not warranted by reason or fact. Washington who said that "agriculture was the most useful, most healthful, most noble occupation of man," was a farmer when not engaged with public duties. Jefferson, son of a Virginia planter, lived in the most exciting period of the nation's history, and he one of the foremost public men of the time, had interest enough in agriculture to turn from affairs of state and study how to improve the plow, he being the first to construct this symbolical and most ancient of farming implements on scientific principles. Webster, son of a New England farmer, also while at the height of his political fame, constructed a plow, a huge affair, made to be drawn by a dozen yokes of oxen, and plow under a young forest, and he is on record as saying that when guiding this plow and hearing the roots snap and seeing the enormous furrow it turned, burying the good sized sapplings he felt proud and more joyful than over his most noted triumphs of public life. Horace Greely never cut himself loose from the farm life to which he was born. And so it is with hundreds of others who reared on the farm, have become shining lights in the various fields of human activities. After success has been won at the bar or in trade, they turn to the country to find a pleasure in farm life not to be gained in business, political or professional strife.

Give the farm boys, and girls, too, a liberal education; not simply ability to read with proper inflection and pronunciation spell correctly, parse, name and bound all the countries of the globe and locate their capitals, recite pages of history telling what kings, generals and lawyers have done; but teach them something about the mother earth on whose bosom we live and in whose arms we will all be buried; how it was prepared first for plants from the rocks by nature's plows, harrows and rollers, the earthquake, the glacier and the flood, and then fitted for plant food by the dissolving jaws of water and gases, and the action of chemical forces; how life

appeared in the form of plants of low organisms, but supplementing the work of the physical forces which had been going on for ages, prepared the way for a higher type and this in turn for a still higher, until such had come into existence as would afford sustenance to animal life; and how animal life of successive types appeared. Then give them a little inkling of how a plant grows, it matters not whether it be a fuchsia or a corn plant, how it draws its food as liquid up out of the moist soil through the roots and gathers it as gas and the dew; what are the substances taken from the soil by the plant and where they effect and offices of the sunlight; of the rain came from; what becomes of the plant when it is burned or permitted to decay where it grew; to what uses has man put plants and what does he do to keep up the supply of those he has found the most useful. Can anyone doubt that such a line of thought developed in any school room would be full of interest to children? And any person who is fit to be a teacher could, without having a text book on the subject in the school develop such a line of work as a general exercise, and bring it in as a relief from routine and more stupid work, and give to the children that which, if they became farmers, would be the basis for and inspiration to a scientific and rational method of farming; if they are to walk in other industrial paths they will know better how to grow the beautiful plants for window or lawn decoration, and all will more highly appreciate the works of nature and the calling of the farmer who by his working with nature's forces produces the food and clothing of mankind.

LEVI CHUBBUCK.

St. Louis, Mo.

Let us use less trust sugar and more honey.—Farm Journal. The editor of the Busy Bee is with them on that every time. Here is to your health with a half pound of good extracted clover honey for dinner.

## Home Department.

Conducted by Emma Ingoldsby Abbott.

This page is open to all lady readers of the Busy Bee. Any woman who has found anything helpful in her work is invited to give others the benefit of it through these columns.



### The Arrow's Flight.

The life of man  
Is an arrow's flight,  
Out of darkness  
Into light,  
And out of light  
Into darkness again;  
Perhaps to pleasure,  
Perhaps to pain.

There must be something,  
Above or below;  
Somewhere unseen  
A mighty bow,  
A hand that tires not,  
A sleepless eye  
That sees the arrows  
Fly and fly;  
One who knows  
Why we live —and die.  
—R. H. Stoddard.

### A Word to the Girls.

Girls in the country sometimes grow tired of the quiet routine of farm work and long for the excitements and attractions of city life. But life in the city is not the public holiday it seems to the girls on their occasional visits to town. Believe me when I tell you that working girls in the cities have an infinitely more monotonous existence than the country girl ever dreamed of. You get up early and work hard, it is true, but the picnics you attend in summer and the sleigh rides and parties that enliven your winter give you social recreation and change while there is always a chance for the keenest enjoyment for those who know how to read mother nature's book.

Think of spending every working day

in a dingy office, writing and figuring constantly, with but half a day's vacation in three years, as one girl I know of has done! Think of spending all the hot, dusty summer days at a sewing machine in a factory with the ceaseless clatter of hundreds of other machines all about you. Think of walking two miles to work, standing behind a counter all day, forced to smile and smile, though you feel like a villain ought to feel, and walking home again at night. All these things thousands of girls in this city do. One girl I know stands and irons readymade shirt waists all day, week in and week out. Where is the variety in her life. How would you like to exchange your duties with them? Do you not think it would be a welcome relief to them to milk in the cool of the morning, churn, bake and sweep before the hottest part of the day, peel the potatoes for dinner out under the shade of a tree, and after the dinner work is over to sit out in the cool and shady yard, or rest in the hammock, or take a canter on the pony; or in the fall go to the woods in search of nuts; and at night to lie down and breathe in the sweet-scented air of the country instead of sewer smells and effluvia of dirty alleys?

How would you like to pay out of your scant earnings for every specked apple or withered peach you ate? Why, if you lived in the city you would pay for fruit that you will not pick up from the ground now.

How would you like the ever present possibility of losing your "job" and having your income cut off for a time with no money to pay the expenses that always accumulate so fast?

Think of all these things before you give up the quiet and peaceful life of the country with the certainty of a comfortable home, even if you do not have icecream and fried chicken every day. To make the best of what you have is better than to rush into evils that you know not of.



**THE BUSY BEE.**

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Farm Bee Keeping and Other Minor Interests of Progressive Agriculture.

REV. EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT,  
Editor and Publisher.

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**COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Editor solicits communications on the subjects treated in this paper. All such will receive careful attention and be given a place in the columns of the paper, if the Editor deems them of sufficient interest to the general public to warrant their insertion. Write on one side of the paper only, as plainly as you can. If you have something of real interest to communicate, do not refrain from writing simply because you think you may not be able to clothe your thoughts in proper language. Tell what you know the best you can, and the Editor will look after the rest.

*Editorial.*

**Nebraska Bee Keepers Association.**

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Beekeepers' association will be held at Bee and Honey hall, state fair grounds, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Sep-

tember 21 and 22, 1897. The following programme is announced:

**TUESDAY EVENING—8 O'CLOCK.**  
President's Address, E. Whitcomb.  
Secretary's Report, L. D. Stilson.  
Collection of yearly dues.  
Election of officers.

**PAPERS.**

The United Beekeepers' Union, Lincoln, 1899, H. E. Heath; Buffalo, 1897, E. Whitcomb.

Forty Years a Beekeeper in Nebraska, J. H. Masters.

Beekeepers and Fruit Growers, G. M. Whitford.

Some Things I Don't Know About Beekeeping, Charles White.

Some Things I Would Like to Know About Beekeeping, J. M. Carr.

Some Things Everyone Ought to Know William Stolley.

The Alfalfa Honey Fields, F. G. Wikie.  
Sweet Clover Fields, L. E. R. Lambriger.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition.  
Honey Outlook in the State, by August E. Davidson, Omaha; S. Hartman, North Platte; Anna Crabtree, Fullerton; Jennie Brothers, Neboville; L. L. Allspaugh, Auburn; J. M. Young, Plattsmouth; William James, Pleasant Hill; S. Barret, Cedar Bluffs; William Beswick, Norfolk; E. Huling, Aurora.

The editor of the Busy Bee expects to be present at this meeting and will be glad to meet as many of his Nebraska friends there as may find it possible to come. That will be a good chance to hand us your own and your neighbor's subscription. Ask them about it now before you forget it.

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**United States Bee-Keepers Union.**

The object of this society, according to article 2 of the constitution, is to "promote and protect the interests of its members; to defend them in their lawful rights; to enforce laws against the adulteration of honey; to prosecute dishonest honey commission men, and to advance the pursuit of bee culture in general."

The officers of this union are: G. W. W. York, president, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. A. B. Mason, secretary, Station B, Toledo, Ohio; Hon. Eugene Secor, general manager and treasurer. Directors, E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio; Emerson Taylor Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.; C. P. Dadant, Hamilton, Iowa; E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb.; Dr. C. E. Miller, Marengo, Ill.; W. J. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.; Hon. Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. The membership fee is \$1.00 per year, and every beekeeper who desires the help of the union should become a member at once.

### A Very Sad Affair.

Editor Hutchinson of The Review has been overtaken by a sore affliction, and he has our deepest sympathy in this hour of sore pain, disappointment and sorrow. We copy the following from The American Bee Journal:

"Editor W. Z. Hutchinson of the Bee-Keeper's Review, has been called upon to pass through the deep waters of affliction since the Buffalo convention. For about two years his good wife and a daughter, named Ivy, have been suffering with mental derangements, necessitating their staying at a sanitarium for treatment a part of the time. But on Saturday, August 28, both being at home, the mother must have been seized with a severe attack, for she chiorformed to her death the youngest child—Fern—who was five years old, and also attempted to take the life of Ivy by shooting. Although in a dangerous condition, it was thought, August 30, that Ivy would recover.

### The Annual Meeting of the United States Bee Keepers' Union.

The editor of The Busy Bee has just returned from the east where he was in attendance at the annual meeting of the above named society. The meeting was held this year in Buffalo on account of the low railroad rates offered for the encampment of the G. A. R. There were a large number of bee-keepers present, every section of the United States being represented, and quite a number from Canada. The gathering was one of the most interesting and profitable ones the bee-keepers of this continent have ever held. A large amount of routine business was transacted, and the new Union added about 75 to its membership. This society is the successor of the old North American Bee-Keepers' association and is organized for the general advancement of apiculture on this continent, and for

mutual protection. One of the worst evils which the modern bee-keeper has to contend with the adulteration of extracted honey and the United States Bee-Keepers' Union will give special attention to this subject and will see that the laws of the various states against the adulteration of food products are enforced as relates to honey and beeswax. Most states have stringent laws against food adulteration, but in many states they are a dead letter on account of not being enforced. The writer knows this to be true in his own state, and the presumption is that it is true in many others. Just as soon as the Union has sufficient means in hand to successfully cope with this evil, they will take up the matter and make an example of some of the adulterators. Every bee-keeper and every one who is interested in pure food should send in his dollar for a year's membership in the union, and thus aid in the destruction of this growing evil of adulteration. Money should be sent to the General Manager, whose address will be found above, or if more convenient the editor of the Busy Bee will accept your dollar and see that the same is forwarded. I shall have more to say about some of the questions discussed at the meeting in future numbers of the Busy Bee. I am very anxious to do all I can to aid the Union, and I make new subscribers the following liberal offer: Send me \$1.25 and I will send you the Busy Bee one year, and pay your dues in the United States Bee-Keepers' Union for the same length of time.

### A Mild Protest.

As remarked in another column the Buffalo meeting was a success, but there were some things in connection with the meeting, incident to the large crowd, which I trust may be avoided in the future. It is customary for the citizens of a place where any large crowd gathers to offer them reduced rates for accommodation, but the citizens of Buf-

falo seemed to have taken the very opposite course in this case. And what made the matter worse they seem to have made an agreement to charge the same price for bad accommodations as they did for good. The result was that the bee-keepers, and many others had to pay \$1 per night for the privilege of stretching out on a meager furnished cot. I do not say for sleeping on a cot, as it was very hard to sleep under such circumstances. Take the invoice of one lodger's accommodation and see if it offered much inducement to sleep. One wire cot, one old shall laid on the same for a mattress, one sheet folded, one narrow, very narrow, cotton flannel blanket, one handful of excelsior sewed up in a rag for a pillow, and a sick man to occupy it, on a night that was not any too warm for comfort, and would you wonder if he offered a mild protest?

What aggravated the matter is that these things were not offered as a mere makeshift, representing the best they could do when an emergency had come upon them unexpectedly, but they were prepared before hand with mature deliberation, evidently with the idea that they would be the proper thing to offer those who had been invited to partake of the hospitality of the city. For they held a consultation, I was informed, and arraigned a kind of trust, the essential conditions of which were that each one who spent a night on one of those scantily furnished, or well furnished, as the case might be, makeshifts for a bed should be charged the modest (?) sum of \$1.

It may have been all right to treat the bee-keepers in that way, as they are only ordinary folks, but what about the scarred and crippled veterans, did they not deserve something better? To my certain knowledge some of them at least did not fare any better.

I trust, however, that no one will take this as a sample of New York hospitality, for I spent ten or twelve years of my life in that state, and she gave me the best partner I ever had, my wife, and I know that she has some of the

grandest open-hearted people under the sun. But such is life—"in the far west"—as a fellow who worked for me used to say when anything went wrong.

### Consumption of Honey.

I think it was Horace Greeley who said that the way to resume specie payment was to resume. So I say the way to increase the consumption of honey is to consume it. I often read in bee papers about what a great mistake people make who do not use it instead of other sweets, yet you might dine with the people who are interested in the publication of such papers many times and not find any honey on their table. I have frequently noticed in traveling over the country the absence of honey from the tables of those who produce honey, or get their living out of the honey business. If we do not do our part in consuming our own product, how can we go to others and urge upon them the importance of a honey diet? The editor of the Busy Bee eats honey three times a day at the rate of about fifteen pounds per month, and he has no hesitancy in saying that honey has been one of the means of taking him from a chronic state of invalidism. People who have any tendency to stomach trouble should refrain from the use of all sweets except honey. Most of these will find that they can eat extracted honey not only with impunity but with decided benefit. One of the things that makes it hard for me to spend any length of time away from my home is my inability to get honey. and I am sorry to say that I find this delicious and healthful article of diet absent from the table of those who keep bees about as frequently as I do from the table of those who do not have any bees, and have to secure what honey they use in the open market.

I have thrown out these few hints that the honey producers may do a little thinking along this line, and ask themselves if they "Practice what they preach."

### Cross Bees.

I often notice the great difference in bees about stinging, when I have been visiting different apiaries, and have been led to believe that the stinging habit is largely a matter of education, I am inclined to believe that in many cases the man who handles the bees is more to blame for this crossness than are the bees themselves. I have seen many a team stuck in the road because they had a "balky" driver; many a cross child because it had a fretful mother, and on the same line I am inclined to think that the stinging tendency of many bees is due almost, if not entirely, to the way they are handled. The main thing in handling man or beast is to impress them with the idea that while you are the boss, yet you are their friend and will not needlessly wrong or injure them. I think the same will apply to bees.

### Odd Sections and Hives.

The beginner and the farmer bee-keeper should scrupulously avoid buying hives which take odd sized sections or fixtures of any kind. Such an investment is very apt to prove a dear one in the end. There are a great many people who imagine or really believe that all of their inventions (?) are enough better than those in ordinary use to pay anyone to make the change to their goods, even though they are not like those in ordinary use. Those who listen to the interesting story of such fruitful inventors nearly always see the day when they wish they had never seen a hive which took an odd sized section. The trouble about an invention of this kind is that you must buy your sections and other fixtures of this one man, and frequently at a much higher price than those in general use would cost. Then, another trouble is that many of these inventors are never satisfied with their own inventions and

they may soon want you to make another change. After a time they go out of business and you will find yourself loaded up with a lot of traps which the sections in general use will not fit, and unable to get any more of the odd size. When you go to buy hives be sure that they will take the ordinary 4 1-4x4 1-4 section, which is in general use and can be bought of any dealer in apiarian supplies. I am led to write this owing to the fact that hardly a day passes during the busy season, but some one makes inquiry for a section which is not in general use, and can only be had when it is made to order. Even the specialist should go very slow about adopting a hive which takes an odd-sized section, unless he wants to pay more for his supplies than others.

The Farm Journal says: "If you have a boy who is not very bright, let him try something else; he is not fit for a farmer, and the editor of the Busy Bee would add "or a bee keeper, either." This industry is not built that way.

In view of the fact that the farmer's life in its essential character is undeniably poetic, why is it that those who cultivate the soil so generally develop only the dull and prosy side of life? No other occupation presents the ideal and the real side of it in such diametrical opposition.—Selected.

Queens are cheaper now than they were early in the season, and every bee-keeper should see that each colony has a good young queen. Remember, no queen no eggs, no eggs no young bees, and no young bees means an empty hive next spring. Now is also a good time to Italianize your apiary, as you can buy pure bred queens very cheaply and have a fine lot of gentle Italians ready for work in the spring.



## Letters from the Field

Red Oak, Iowa, Aug. 20, 1897.

Brother Abbott—I have read with much interest the article about "Publishing dead beats," also your reply to O. N. Baldwin. I agree with you in every word you say; during the month of June we were charged several dollars for exchange on individual checks, one check for 50c cost 10c exchange, whilst the profit on that transaction was only a few cents. If we write to any of these men we receive usually an answer that their checks are taken at par everywhere.

As a matter of convenience, we frequently send our check, but we always write them "with exchange," so the full amount is paid to the party who receives them. What would you do with a man, who in the height of the swarming season, orders some hives or sections, says he has no catalogue, hence cannot send the money, but will pay as soon as he gets the goods? He lives at a place where there is neither bank nor express office, we ship the goods and that is the last of it, he never pays, and perhaps not even replies; and, if he does, he perhaps says that the goods were different from what he expected to get and as a result refused to pay. (Make him pay first.—Editor.)

Then there is a class that remit from 25c to 50c less than their order amounts to, and never think of paying that balance afterwards. (Send what the money will pay for.)

We had a customer who would not pay his account in full from one season to the next, always carrying a balance over, the interest on the indebtedness was equal to the profit on the goods, we so informed him, and as a result he buys of another man.

I have just figured up outstanding accounts varying from 25c to the largest \$49.10, and it amounts to nearly \$3,000. It will cost me over \$100 to collect three-fourths of it, consequently I endorse every word you say. But how can we induce others to join us in demanding cash for all sales? There are some who do pay as they agree to, and if you insist on cash with the order they simply buy their goods from the "other fellow," who will sell on credit, charging enough for the goods to make up his losses.

To encourage a cash trade in our tanks, we offer a discount, as per sheet enclosed, but we find that the one, who's good pay takes advantage of it, and the one who is slow in paying, pays no attention to it, but he pays 5 per cent more for the goods.

Can you suggest a plan whereby all supply dealers could be induced to adopt the cash system? If such can be done, I am willing to sign a bond to abide by it. A mere agreement will do no good, some will not abide by it. Some time ago I entered into an agreement with another firm on prices of goods, in less than a month thereafter, I found they were offering their goods to my old customers and relatives, who never buy more than two or three hives, at wholesale prices, and in one instance offered to equalize the difference in freight, and as soon as I was fully satisfied that such was the case, I proceeded to retaliate, with no profit to any one; and for that reason, I think, it will be necessary to have some more binding force behind an agreement.

Trusting to hear from you further, I remain respectfully yours,

E. KRETCHMER.

Friend Kretchmer, I fear I can not suggest any way out of the difficulties you name except to do as I do, simply do not send the goods until you get the cash. You say, perhaps, that some of your customers will go to the "other fellow." Let them go. If the "other fellow" is looking for that kind of customers, he is welcome to them, so far as I am concerned. I think that I

have a right to do as I please with my own goods, and to name the conditions on which I am willing to part with them. If the man who wants the goods is not willing to comply with my conditions, why, that is his business and not mine. I do not think he has any right to dictate how I shall conduct my business.

I have, too, had to meet the same unfair competition of factories who would send wholesale prices to my customers, but I think that the reaction of such things hurt the man who does them more than anyone else. I do not like such competition, but I have been able to live so far in life, and pay all I owe, in spite of it.

As to giving bond not to do anything of the kind, I do not know what others would do, but I can not think of anything I would give bond not to do, unless it would be not to be dishonest. I am forever opposed to all trusts and combines, whether they be great or small. They are not only contrary to the laws of most states, but in my opinion, they are contrary to good morals. Let us sell for cash by common consent.

Whiteside, Mo., Sept. 6.—Dear Sir:—In spite of the drouth my bees are making honey (gathering, Ed.) very fast from Spanish Needie, Golden Rod, etc. I also had a fine crop of White Cloyer honey. I sowed a crop of Japanese Buckwheat and it has furnished constant bee pasture from May 20 until now. I also sowed Alsike Clover and I am well pleased with the results both for grazing and bee pasture. I have had Alfalfa on my farm for five years. I have cut two crops of it this year. It blooms abundantly and as a fertilizer it has no superior, but, if there has ever been a bee on the bloom, I have failed to see it.

Please tell us through the "Busy Bee" what you know about Sweet clover? Some claim great things for it, others warn farmers that it is only a noxious weed.

Sweet clover is not a "noxious weed," but is a very valuable plant. We will

devote a number of the Busy Bee to this subject soon. If any of our readers have anything to offer, I would be glad to have it.—Editor.

## BOOK REVIEW



(Any book mentioned in this column may be ordered through us.)

In this age of scientific investigation every intelligent and progressive man looks upon books treating or bearing on the pursuit in which he is engaged as an essential part of his tools. A part, too, which he can ill afford to dispense with, and, therefore, he is as much interested in knowing what new tools have been invented to lighten and increase the efficiency of his work. I will, therefore, need to offer no apology for occupying a part of the space of this paper with the review of such books as I believe will be instructive and helpful to those who are engaged in rural pursuits.

Note to Publishers.—You are invited to mail to The Busy Bee copies of any books of interest to those engaged in rural pursuits, and they will receive proper notice in this column. All books received will be given some notice, but the length of the notice will depend entirely on the editor's ideas of their value to his readers. Please mark the retail price on the fly leaf of all books, and it possible send a circular treating of them.

We have received a copy of the Gentleman Farmer, published by the Brother Jonathan Publishing Co., of Chicago, Ill. It is printed on fine paper and is in magazine form, finely illustrated. The reading matter is of excellent quality and our readers who are looking for something first class in that line are invited to send for a sample copy. The subscription price is only \$1 per year.

### Cash for Beeswax.

The publisher of the Busy Bee will pay the highest market price for beeswax, in cash, at all times. If you have any to sell, whether the quantity be large or small, write him for prices, stating how much you have and of what quality, dark or yellow, clean or otherwise.



## Poultry Notes.

### The Character of Each.

The eggs from hens says an exchange, will hatch better than those from pullets and chicks from hens will be stronger and more vigorous. Old hens will also lay as well as pullets, if properly managed, and they will usually begin to lay directly after molting. Food and care will show their effect, no matter what the breed may be, but more dependence can be placed on some hens than on others, owing to the individual characteristics of each. Large, rosy combs are sure indications of thrift, and when such is the case the hens will soon lay.

Hens have been known to lay well until six or seven years of age, and just when to declare them too old for service is difficult, as some hens will last longer than others. Probably the first year after the pullet becomes a hen, she will lay the largest number of eggs, but the eggs will be smaller from a pullet than those from a hen. It is difficult to feed highly for eggs without making some of the hens fat, as they will fatten sooner than pullets, owing to the latter appropriating a portion of the food to growth.

There is a great difference in the breeds and in many respects. The pullets of the Leghorn breed will begin laying when they are but five months old, but pullets of the larger breeds sometimes grow until nearly ten months or a year before they begin to lay. The number of eggs laid is entirely a matter concerning each individual, no two hens being alike. Fowls not only excel in certain characteristics according to the breeds, but they are good or bad only when viewed from the standpoint of their requirements, and in pro-

portion to their treatment, in order to accomplish the purposes for which they are kept. Some excel as egg producers and some for market, and they must be managed accordingly. If eggs are required, without regard to market quality, only the breeds that are active and vigorous should be kept. Poultry for market should be a secondary consideration on an "egg" farm.—The Feather.

### The Iowa Hen.

We have read of Maud on a Summer day who raked, barefooted, the new mown hay; we have read of the maid in the early morn who milked the cow with the crumpled horn; and we've read the lays that the poets sing, of the rustling corn and the flowers of Spring; but of all the lays of tongue or pen there's naught like the lays of the Iowa hen. Long, long before Maud raked her hay, the Iowa hen has begun to lay, and ere the milk-maid stirs a peg, the hen is up and has dropped her egg. The corn must rustle and flowers must spring if they hold their own with the barnyard ring. If Maud is neding a hat and gown, she doesn't hustle her hay to town; she goes to the store and obtains her suit with a basket full of fresh hen fruit; if the milk-maid's beau makes a Sunday calf, she doesn't feed him on milk at all; but works up eggs in a custard pie and stuffs him full of a chicken fry; and when the old man wants a horn, does he take the druggist a load of corn? Not much! He simply robs a nest and to town he goes—you know the rest. He lingers there and he talks, perchance, of true reform and correct finance, while his poor wife stays at home and scowls, but is saved from want by those self same fowls; for while the husband lingers there, she watches the cackling hen with care and gathers eggs, and eggs she'll hide 'till she gets enough to stem the tide. Then hail, all hail to the Iowa hen, the greatest blessing of all to men! Throw up your hats

and make Rome howl for the persevering barnyard fowl! Corn may be king, but 'tis plainly seen, that the Iowa hen is the Iowa Queen.—Cincinnati Tribune-Journal. I think this will answer for the Missouri hen too.

**What One Fowl Will Do.**

Mate a thoroughbred light Brahma cockerel with any hens weighing under six pounds and each chick hatched from such a mating will weigh from two to four pounds more than the hens weighed at the same age. Eight or ten strong, active hens thus mated should easily furnish enough eggs to raise two hundred chicks or more. A light Brahma cockerel will thus add four hundred to eight hundred pounds, if not half a ton more, to the weight of a flock in a single season.—Dr. I. H. Mayer, Willow Street, Penn.

**Disinfectants.**

Two pounds of copperas, or sulphate of iron, dissolved in a pail of water, will greatly assist in purifying a privy or cesspool. A pound of nitrate of lead dissolved in the same way is excellent for sinks, drains or vaults. Chloride of lime is also effectual, or a layer of charcoal dust will prevent offensive odors arising from any decomposing substance. The quantity of these substances will depend upon the amount of filth to be deodorized, and the length of time during which they will be effectual upon local conditions.—Woman's Farm Journal.

**Golden Wyandottes.**

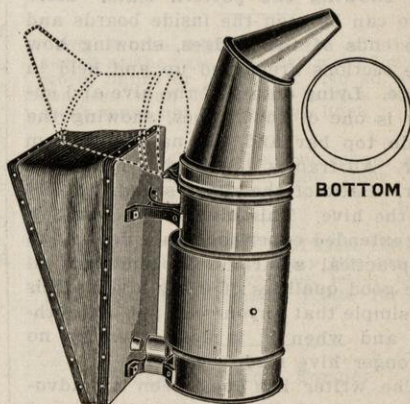
They are the fowls for eggs, beauty, thriftiness and rich, juicy meat. There is no better fowl for the farmer. They are about the size of Plymouth Rocks, but are more hardy. I have some very fine birds, and sell eggs at hard times prices. Thirteen eggs, carefully packed, \$1.00; select eggs from my best birds, \$1.50 for thirteen.

**Honey Jars.**



1 lb., per gross, flint glass, \$4.75; 2 lb., per gross, with corks, \$6.25; 1-2 lb., per gross, with corks, \$3.65; dime jars, with corks, per gross, \$2.75; 5 oz. jars, 30 cents per dozen; 1-2 lb. 40 cents per dozen; 1 lb. 50 cents per dozen.

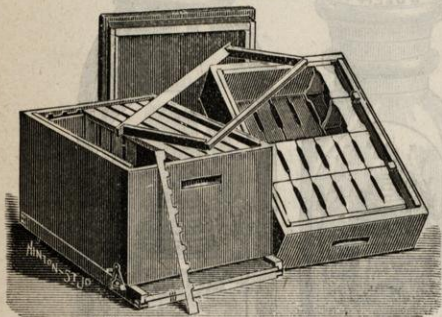
**Corneil Smoker.**



A very good smoker for the money. Price, 80 cents each; by mail, 25 cents extra.

# The "St. Joe" Hive.

LATEST.



BEST.

The most practical and the very best hive out.

Has all the good qualities of the famous Dovetailed Hive, and is far superior to it.

The illustration will give a clear idea of all its parts. In front one of the metal spacers leans against the hive. Inside of the hive, at the back end, where the three frames are removed, is shown the metal spacer in place. Standing beside the body of the hive is a super with one of the sections removed, showing the pattern slats. Here also can be seen the inside boards and the ends of the wedges, showing how the sections are keyed up and held in place. Lying on top of the hive and super is one of the frames, showing the wide top bar and the narrow bottom bar. All frames now have a heavy top bar. Back of the super stands the lid of the hive. This hive is the result of an extended experience as a dealer and a practical apiarist. It combines all the good qualities of many hives. It is so simple that anyone can put it together, and when it is done there is no stronger hive made.

The writer has long been an advocate of "fixed distances," and has used a hive with a frame spacer in it for years. There is a great rage now for spacing frames by the so-called Hoff-

man method. I have not found this practical in a hive for general use. Some may be able to handle these frames and not kill the bees, but the writer, after repeated trials, gave up the idea of such a frame years ago. For the ordinary farmer they would be about equivalent to none in a year's time, as they would be all stuck together with propolis.

The "St. Joe" accomplishes the end desired with none of these bad features. It is made of seven-eighths lumber, of good quality, and has no portico, as you will see, for the spiders to spin webs in. The bottom is formed of a thick frame, grooved, so that three-eighths lumber is fastened into the groove, which, being ship-lapped, makes as good a bottom as if seven-eighths thick. It is a loose bottom, with bee space, and is very light and strong.

The frames have a top-bar that is 18 3-4 inches long. It is heavy and is 1 1-8 inches wide, leaving 1-4 inch bee space between the frames. The bottom bar is one-half inch wide and 17 1-4 inches long. The end bar is seven-eighths of an inch wide, and 8 3-4 inches long. It can be nailed each way, making a very strong frame and a very good one.

This frame fits the Improved Langstroth Simplicity Hive. The frames rest in metal frame spacers, which hold every frame in its place. The spacers fit in saw kerfs which are cut in the wooden rabbets in the ends of the body of the hive. All you have to do is to drive them down to their places and they will remain there without nailing or further trouble. Bees cannot stick the frames fast, and the construction is such that they will not build burr combs. The frames are spaced with the metal spacer at the bottom of the hive, so they are always in place. The hive can be shipped across the continent without killing bees.

The supers are made with the slats in the bottom cut the same shape as the sections, thoroughly protecting them. The sections are held in place by an end and side board that fit inside the super. There is a bee space in all

of the slats of the super, so that the bees will finish the outside sections, and also one between the supers.

The hive should be seen to be appreciated.

PRICES—Sample hive, made up with sections and starters, no paint, \$1.50.

Five or more, no sections, starters or paint, \$1.25.

Add 25 cents for two coats of good paint.

For sections and starters add 25 cents

Full sheets of foundation in the brood chamber, 90 cents per hive of 8 frames.

Five hives in the flat, cut ready to nail, no sections or starters, \$5.00.

Ten hives in the flat, \$9.50. Extra supers in the flat, 20 cents; made up, 25 cents.

Plain hooks and eyes to fasten on the bottom, 5 cents per hive. For ten hives, 25 cents. Sections for five hives, 50 cents.

All prices for hives include one super only.

I guarantee this hive to be first class in every respect.

Globe Bee-Veil.



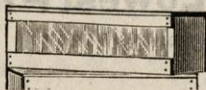
Five cross-bars are riveted in the center at the top. These bend down and button to studs on a neck-band. The bars are best of light spring steel. The neck band is hard spring brass. The

netting is white, with face-piece of black to see through.

It is easily put together, and folds compactly in a case 1x6x7 inches—the whole weighing but 5 ounces. It can be worn over an ordinary hat; fits any head; does not obstruct the vision, and can be worn in bed without discomfort. It is a boon to anyone whom flies, both-er, mosquitoes bite, or bees sting.

Price, \$1.00; extra nets, 50c; will club it with The Busy Bee for \$1.15. Cotton, tulle veils, plain, 50 cents; silk front, 60 cents.

Shipping Crates.



Single Tier Crates, of the latest non-drip pattern, at the following prices:

To hold 24 sections, 4 1-4x4 1-4, in the flat, with glass, in lot of 5, 17 1-2 cents each; in lots of 10, 16 1-2 cents each; in lots of 20, 15 1-2 cents each; in lots of 40, 14 1-2 cents each; 50 or more, 12 1-2 cents each.

These are crated in lots of 25, and to get the benefit of the 50 price, they must be ordered in full crates.

Twelve pound crates will be 2 cents per crate less. Most prefer the single tier 24 pound crate.



BERKSHIRE, Chester White, Jersey Red and Poland China Pigs. Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein Cattle. Thoroughbred Sheep, Fancy Poultry, Hunting and House Dogs. Catalogue. S. W. SMITH, Cochranville, Chester Co., Penna.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of a proper character will be inserted at the following rates:

|             | One Month. | Three Months. | Six Months. | One Year. |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 Inch .... | \$ .70     | \$ 1.75       | \$ 3.25     | \$ 6.50   |
| 2 Inches..  | 1.30       | 3.50          | 6.25        | 12.00     |
| 1/2 Column  | 2.50       | 6.50          | 12.00       | 23.00     |
| 1 Column..  | 4.00       | 11.00         | 21.00       | 40.00     |
| 1 Page .... | 7.50       | 20.00         | 39.00       | 75.00     |

Reading notices, 10 cents per line each issue. Special Position one-fourth more than above rates.

The publisher cannot undertake to be responsible for the acts of any of the advertisers, but he will not knowingly admit any fraudulent advertisement, and will immediately drop the ad. of any person or firm failing to deal fairly with the public.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ads. in the Special Column will be inserted at the rate of 1c per word for each word, figure or character. No ad. taken for less than 15c. Ads. in this department must not exceed five lines.

AGENTS.—Can make good money soliciting subscriptions for the Busy Bee. Write for terms.

ENVELOPES AND LETTER HEADS.—The publisher of the Busy Bee can furnish you printed envelopes, letter heads, bills, etc., very cheap. Write for estimates.

Parks' Section Former.

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