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THE NEBRASKA  
BEE-KEEPER.



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VOL. 8.

YORK, NEB., APRIL, 1897.

NO. 4.

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# THE NEBRASKA



# BEE-KEEPER.



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## **Alsike clover as a fodder for stock and as a honey-plant.**

Paper read at Eastern Iowa Bee Keepers Convention.

In writing this paper I will endeavor to give plain facts from my own farm. I harvested my first crop of Alsike in 1892, cut it for seed as soon as ripe enough, and it yielded, from 8 acres, 32 bushels of nice, clean seed (which I sold for \$10 per bushels), and as nearly as I could tell, about one ton per acre of very good cattle hay, which was 8 tons, worth \$5 per ton, or \$40, to which add \$320, and we have \$360. Take off \$32 for hulling, and we have a net income of \$328, which is \$41 per acre—a better income than I ever obtained from any other crop on the farm.

Alsike will yield at least 3 bushels of seed per acre, and I have obtained (the 4 years that I have grown it) an average of \$6.75 per bushel for the seed: 75 cents off for hulling, leaves \$6 clear. The value of one ton of good hay per acre is \$5, making a net income of \$23 per acre, saying nothing about labor of harvesting and threshing.

Let us compare results with the corn-grower, or, in fact, any other crop. The average price of corn is about 32 cents per bushel, and about 35 bushels per acre is nearly the average—40 bushels most; sold at 32 cents will net \$12.80 per acre. Count the stalks at \$1 per acre as feed, leaves \$13.80 net, saying nothing about the increased labor of caring for and harvesting. Corn or oats runs the land down, while Alsike builds it up.

In considering the above, we might well add \$5 more to the real worth of the ground for another crop after it has grown Alsike. If we should put it at \$13.80, net income for one acre of corn, and \$28 net for one acre of Alsike, we would have, in my opinion, a very correct statement, which will leave most decidedly \$14.50 as the net value of Alsike over the average corn crop.

Alsike hay cannot be beaten as a cattle food. They thrive well whenever they get it. The hay is nice and green, even after being hulled. Here is where Alsike gets the start of red clover; the latter turns mostly black before the seed ripens. Seed and hay can't be had at the same time.

Labor has gotten to be a big item on the farm. It takes but little labor to handle a crop of Alsike for hay and seed. It is all done at once, and at a time when it seldom rains—just before oat harvest. This nice, well-cured, green clover can easily be gotten up.

Alsike prefers low ground, but will do very well on hills, if the ground is in a good state of cultivation. It is inclined to grow short on high, worn-out land. It does well where the soil is loose. It should not be sown on clay hills, unless manured. It will grow 4 or 5 feet high in a wet slough, right among slough grass, and will run out the grass. Alsike is a short perennial. I have a field 4 years old, and it is now thicker than ever. It is grown north of us because of its ability to stand the long, hard winters.

It is needless for me to say that this variety ranks well as a nectar-yielder. I would place our honey-yielding flora in the following order; Gray willow, heart's-ease, sweet clover, Alsike, white clover, buckwheat, red clover, Spanish-needle, wild sunflower and flowers that grows along bottom lands.

I might say much more, but this paper is already long enough. However, I will add that Alsike, like white clover, refuses to a great degree to yield honey during a very dry season. In 1894 I secured 2,000 pounds of comb honey nearly all, I think, from Alsike. There was over 1000 acres close to my bees, and they worked scarcely any on white clover. One bee-keeper, who had about the same number of colonies as I, and in about the same condition, secured scarcely any surplus at all. He was not in reach of the Alsike fields.

Again, the honey from the above source was hardly as light in color as that from white clover but lacked nothing in flavor.

FRANK COVERDALE.

## A farmer's bee keeping.

The value that will accrue in having the bees in orchard.

After much persuasion and argument, farmers generally are convinced that bees are necessary and that they contribute to the increase and quality of all flowering plants. That has been proved beyond question.

• But some farmers have no faith in what they cannot see and appreciate. If they spread ten cords of manure on an acre of corn land, they can see the result but when they are told that bees will increase the apple crop, that is another matter. If there is a good crop and bees are present, the farmer may say, "It was a good bearing year, and I'd had a good crop anyway, bees, or no bees!"

But this is contrary to established facts. The progressive farmer accepts bees as necessary co-workers. But some farmers declare that while bees are important, yet they have no time to give to them or to their product except to set them up in the orchard and leave them to their work of fertilizing the flowers, having the idea that the product of honey, if there should be any, is too small to pay for the trouble of gathering it.

The statement has been made many times (and is true) that a colony of bees in an ordinary season would return a larger per cent of profit than anything else on the farm. Let us see about that. Suppose a colony of bees be bought in the spring for eight dollars. The freight and carting may cost two dollars more or ten dollars in all. This colony will collect thirty to sixty pounds of comb honey during the season according to conditions, over and above what the colony needs to live on during the winter.

Suppose the colony collects thirty pounds and it sells for ten cents a pound, a low price, or three dollars. Ten dollars was paid for the outfit, and the return on the investment is thirty per cent. If the honey was sold for five cents a pound, there would be a profit or dividend of fifteen per cent. Where on the farm has the farmer any investment that yields thirty or even fifteen per cent? The bees not only by the fertilization of flowers increased the crops, but also gave a profit on the investment of thirty per cent, and at the same time boarded themselves and worked for nothing.

And when bees done all this and more, the farmer in the fall has crept out at dusk to the hive like an assassin, and with foul fumes of brimstone, killed every member of the colony in order to get a little honey for his own sweet tooth, all the honey there was left, for the honey taken earlier in the season from the surplus boxes, had been sold. What monstrous ingratitude.

But the farmer need not buy bees every spring if he has interest enough to catch the new swarms, and then the first outlay for bees will be the only one. If the colony referred to cast a swarm, then it not only fertilized the flowers and returned thirty per cent dividend, but also in-

creased the bees one hundred per cent. What more do you want that colony to do? Is not that enough to satisfy any reasonable being?

It is simply marvelous that some farmers are so blind to the importance and profit of bees. I have been in a corn field after the crop had been gathered and not a piece of leaf as large as my hand could be found, so carefully had the field been cleared. That is the way to do it. And farmers gather the leaves in the fall and make good use of them. But honey, hundreds, thousands of gallons, goes to waste because the farmers does not provide bees to collect it, because the farmer has no time to fuss with anything so small and insignificant as bees; and then the farmer groans about taxes, mortgages, bugs, tariff and politics.

Why, in the honey that runs to waste in your orchard, in the fields and in the woods around you, you may find tax money and your interest money and, perhaps, your mortgage money. Can you not pick up dollars that are lying at your feet?

I heard a farmer say this, and it is worth repeating; "I don't do much with bees because we do not agree, that is, I let them alone. I have ten colonies because I believe they are necessary. If the season is poor and I get no honey, I don't complain. The bees are not to blame, they cannot collect honey if there is none. But if it is a good season I'm looking forward all summer to the time when I can take fifty, one hundred, perhaps two hundred dollars from the hives. It comes in handy, I tell you, and it helps me all summer to think that, in the fall I can draw on that honey bank, and the fact that I don't know how much I shall get, makes it all the more interesting. It's like putting your hand in grab bag. You don't know what you'll get."

BY GEORGE APPLETON.

## Honey Vinegar--Not suitable for Pickles.

How to Make Honey Lemonade.

My experience in making honey vinegar may be of interest to some of the readers of GLEANINGS who are thinking of making some of it the coming season. A few years ago I tried making it on quite an extensive scale in a number of barrels which were set up from the ground in an open shed facing the south. The heads of the barrels were removed, and they were kept covered with cloth in order to exclude dirt and insects, but still admit plenty of air, which I found to be an important factor. I had no difficulty in making strong vinegar, the strength depending, of course, upon the amount of honey used. Clover and basswood honey made vinegar of fine flavor; but that made from dark and

inferior honey had a somewhat bitter taste, and I doubt whether there would ever be much of a demand for that made from such alone; and there is seemingly an objection to that made from clover or basswood honey; for, while the strength flavor are all that could be desired, it seems to cut or soften pickles that are made from it. I noticed this at our place; and a good many to whom it was sold complained of the same thing. Most of the vinegars of commerce, instead of cutting or making pickles soft, harden them. Of course, that made from honey is all right to use on lettuce, salads, or pickles that are to be used soon; and if the defect in it which I have mentioned could be remedied, there could be a large amount of honey very profitably used in this way; as I found that  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. would make a gallon of very strong vinegar, and it can be made in large quantities without much work or outlay. Here we have to pay from 20 to 35 cts. per gallon for vinegar, and the cheaper grades are not fit to use.

There is much more vinegar used than any and who has not inquired into the matter would believe. Possibly a small amount of some kind of drug or acid could be put into honey vinegar, which would overcome its tendency to soften pickles.

There is another way some honey can very profitably used by beekeepers, and that is by converting it in lemonade, as occasion may offer. Ever since I read that article in GLEANINGS, John C. Wallenmeyer, in which he spoke about honey lemonade, I have had a desire to test the matter; and as the people of our town celebrated the Fourth of July last year, I resolved to give the matter a trial that day. I was not able to leave home myself, but I got two young men in the neighborhood interested in the matter, and they were eager to try it on shares. We took a low wagon with a big hay-rack on it, and fitted a canvas top over it and and to one side. The other side was left open except for a strip of canvas at the top on which was printed in large letters of red and blue—

“PURE HONEY LEMONADE.” I furnished a number of newly built combs in brood-frames to hang up on the back side of the rack. Quite a display was also made of section honey, and extracted in a glass of different sizes; a frame of bees with a queen, in an observatory hive, and two boxes with wire cloth on both sides, containing bees, were also used to attract attention. The whole was decorated with evergreens, flags, and flowers. I furnished a steady team so the boys could haul the “rig” around where the people were the thickest.

Before and after the Fourth we had some very hot weather; but the Glorious Fourth was a cool, cloudy, even chilly day, compared with the weather just before; and on this account our sales were not what they



would have been on a warm day. Many of the other lemonade stands did not pay expenses; but the boys gave me \$13.45 as my share of the profits on the sale of lemonade. The whole time the three of us spent in arranging the wagon was not over half a day. The lemonade was made just the same as any, except pure extracted clover honey was used to sweeten it, instead of sugar. While I do not know that many would like its taste any better than that sweetened by sugar, it is certainly much more refreshing, and has a pleasant or stimulating effect. We used a large amount of it at our place last summer; and many of the neighbors who drank some, bought honey to make it.

In selling honey lemonade at a public stand those who buy it seem to notice its refreshing effect, and return for more. I believe it is a very healthful drink, and I am going to see if it will keep when bottled up air-tight. If it will I intend to put some of it on sale this summer among druggists and grocers.

C. Davenport.

## Spring and Summer Management of an Apiary for the Largest Profits.

The following letter and very valuable article on the above subject was received by Mrs. Effie Brown, our faithful bee editress, in response to her solicitation for a contribution to be used in this, our bee symposium. Mrs. Brown has tendered her assistance in securing a number of other articles besides those sent directly to this office and we feel sure our readers will be benefitted by giving each subject their special attention:

“Your letter of February 28th, was awaiting me today on my arrival after a two months absence, and if not too late, I will write you an article on my way of securing a large crop of comb honey.

I have made bee-keeping a specialty for twenty-one years and if tons of honey are evidence, of proper management, then surely I have not been far out of the way.

I want good strains of bees but am not a non-swarming advocate.

No madam, I want my bees to swarm as nature designed them to do; and in all my manipulations, work along the line of nature or natural laws. The secret, however, of a large surplus crop is in hiving the swarm. Upon this important point most of my article will treat.

Respectfully yours

E. A. Morgan.”

I would not set any date for removing bees from the cellar but would only say, put them out as soon as the snow is off and a few warm

days appear; examine them occasionally to see that they have plenty of honey to keep up brood rearing until June 1st to 10th in this locality.

At this time while clover begins to yield honey, and if swarms have wintered well all will be strong in bees and have a large amount of eggs, brood and larvae.

I usually begin the season with one hundred stocks; from fifteen to twenty will be from two to three weeks behind the rest but I leave them as they are. I now begin to put on the supers which hold twenty-eight  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  sections, all having starters of foundation, and a section in the center containing drawn comb, if I have them. The hives at this time should be crowded full of bees. Put on one super at first and if the weather is warm work will begin at once and honey will be stored rapidly.

After giving a super to all strong stocks, keep watch of others and give them a super just as soon as they are crowded full of bees, and now keep watch for swarms which may be expected any day.

This is the critical time for the apiarist, for on his management now depends his profits for the season. The weather is growing warmer every day, the clover blossoms more abundant and the supers are nearly filled, but not yet sealed. Just at this stage out goes the swarm—the most natural thing that could occur—the natural increase of the apiary. But just here is where all bee-keepers fail. The average bee-keeper hives his swarm in a new hive on a new stand, the bees spend the best part of the white honey season building brood combs and finally go up and make one super of honey later on, which perhaps will be mixed with dark honey and sell for second quality. The old colony ceases to work in super until a young queen is hatched, mated and laying, which is twenty-one days; so in either case, no white honey is secured nor a full crop; and again the old stock, if left alone, will send out a second swarm—thus cutting off all chance of surplus, unless the season is uncommonly long and good.

The expert bee-keeper spends his time trying to prevent swarming and in so doing gets his bees to sulking, hanging out, and demoralized so that he makes only half a surplus. After years of experience I discovered a plan which I have followed for twelve years—always securing the largest crops of white honey.

My plan is to have a new hive all ready with wax starters  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch deep, the length of the top bar of the brood frames. When the swarm goes out and when all are in the air, I secure and cage the queen (I have the queens clipped.) Set the old hive off the stand, turning the entrance the other way, and set the new hives on the old stand. Lay

the caged queen in the entrance, take off the nearly filled super from the old hive and put it on the new one. The bees will be returning by this time and go into the new hive. Run in the queen and the swarming is done for the season. They are full of honey; they go directly into the nearly filled super, deposit their honey and in an hour are off for the fields for more. The bees will begin to draw the combs below. They will have a laying queen that will deposit eggs as fast as the comb is built, so that all the white honey goes into the sections. The bees are happy, no demoralization by cutting queen cells, their desire to swarm is satisfied, they have gained a new impetus by swarming, and in addition to the swarm, they have all the flying bees that were out in the fields, which would have stayed in the old colony had it not been turned around. The force is now up to 80,000 bees—all workers-

About third day after swarming I raise the super and place an empty one under it—removing the upper one as soon as sealed; later on raising the second and placing another under that and so on to the end of the season. The following morning I go to the old hive, remove the cover and carry it to one of the weak colonies spoken of. This old hive now contains about eight frames of brood and a few young bees. Open the weak colony and remove all combs not containing brood and in their places give these frames of brood. If there are too many for one go on to another. The brood from all swarms is disposed of in this way till all are full, making them at once rousing colonies which are fit to be given a super. The combs having no brood are taken in and extracted and then used to build nucleus of which I now start twenty-five of two frames each, giving choice cells, and build these up from the brood of swarms throughout the season.

The past season was one of excessive swarming but all were treated as above, no time was lost in the surplus cases and a very large surplus secured, which could not have been secured in any other way.

If the above is not plain to all I will explain more fully to anyone wishing it.

E. A. Morgan, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

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## DIED.

At Kansas City, Mo. on March 13 Mrs. J. N. Heater of Columbus Neb. Mrs. Heater had been spending a few weeks visiting at Kansas City. And the first intimation to her Nebraska friends that all was not well with her, came the message announcing her death. A surgical operation had been performed on March 3, after which she rallied somewhat only to sink away and pass to the great beyond on the morning of the 13th. Her remains were brought to Columbus and the funeral services held at her late home, then taken to St. Edwards, Neb., the home

of her parents, who were too feeble to attend, for burial. Mrs. Heater was born in Defiance Co. Ohio, Mar. 5th 1856. She came to Nebraska in 1875 and in 1876 was married to J. N. Heater. For the past 15 years Mrs. Heater has been actively engaged in bee-keeping and by her careful, studious methods has been at the front of the procession and has been considered good authority on bee matters. As a writer she has left behind her many rich papers which have been published in the bee periodicals in the past ten or twelve years. And in this way her name has been well known among the bee-keepers' fraternity all over the world.

The bee-keepers' Association of Nebraska has lost one of its best members. She was a valuable member, a good officer and a prominent exhibitor at our bee and honey exhibits. To her and her husband much credit was due for the fine showing of Nebraska Apiary exhibits at the World's Fair in Chicago.

In this affliction the bee-keepers of Nebraska extend to the husband and sorrowing friends, our heart-felt sympathy. Our loss is great, but yours is greater. While we mourn the loss of those "gone before", let us all try to so live that we may all meet her in that better world on high.

L. D. Stilson, Sec. Neb. Bee Keepers Association.

The sudden death of Mrs. J. N. Heater of Columbus has caused a pall of sadness to fall over every bee-keeper of this State, where she was so well and widely known. Not only in our own State, but all over North America, wherever a live up to-date Apiary was located, Mrs. Heater, was known, and her short and pointed answers to queries in the American Bee Journal, were looked upon as Standard authority.

For fifteen years she had given most of her time to the interest of bee-keeping, and she strove to be foremost in her avocation, and how well she succeeded is written well down in the history of this industry not only in her State but in others. She took a great interest in the Nebraska Aparian display at the Columbian exposition, and not only contributed largely to its success but was for a time in charge of this exhibit, which among the States was first in place, and the last to come down, and was largely patterned after by States with more experience than Nebraska. No one ever visited her in her home without being impressed with the quiet methods which cropped out everywhere and which were her main means of success. For years she took a great interest in the annual exhibition at the State Fair, and was one of the principal exhibitors. The great success in this department was in a great measure due to her energy and good judgment and indomitable desire to

succeed in every undertaking which she chose to favor.

No sketch can do justice to this woman who was remarkable in many ways. In all the relations of life she was faithful to duty, and her every act of duty bore the outcroppings of that devotion to duty which was the foundation of her every act. Her tastes were purely domestic and the heart felt sympathies of the many friends go out to Mr. Heater in this his hour of dark bereavement in the loss of so good a wife, and one who rose in the estimation of those with whom she came in contact, as the acquaintance ripened into friendship pure and everlasting.

E. Whitcomb, Pres. Neb. State Bee Keepers Association.

## The Nebraska Bee Keeper

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L. D. STILSON, EDITOR.  
YORK, NEBRASKA.

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

Another of our Nebraska bee keepers has been suddenly "called home" since our last meeting in September. Mrs. A. L. Hallenbach and Mrs. J. N. Heater, both of these members were active at our last meeting and both attended the meeting of the North American a month later. Their trials are over their labors ended.

With this issue of the Nebraska Bee-Keeper our connection with the paper, as editor, will cease. Rev. E. T. Abbott of St. Joseph, Mo. will take charge of the paper hereafter.

Owing to press of other work which has continued to crowd upon us for the past few years it has been impossible to devote as much time to the paper as

should have been given to it, and we were as well aware of the fact as our critics, that the paper was not as good as it deserved to be, and in retiring from its management we do so in the belief that my successor will make it a better paper than even before. It will remain a western bee paper and handled by a man of western push and energy.

In the seven years of editorial work on the paper, we have formed many very pleasant and profitable acquaintances, which we hope and trust will not be severed by withdrawal from the paper.

Our patronage from the first has been good and we hope all patrons will continue with the new management, we expect to continue doing business, and always "at home" to these enquiring in regard to bee matters or to those asking questions concerning other branches of intensive farming in which we are engaged. I am not going to say good bye to my friends as I expect to meet you at the fairs and institutes as of yore, and it is not impossible that I may still write something for publication, but whether such would get past Bro. Abbott into the printers hands remains to be seen.

Success to all in our bee pursuits and success to the paper under the new management, but to make it a success don't forget to send Bro. Abbott \$50

L. D. Stilson.

## The Sack of Flour.

Guilty, Judge, and I own the crime—  
I skipped away with a sack of flour;  
They nabbed me just in the nick of  
time—

I'd have had it home in half an hour.  
Only, the constable on the hill,  
Knew that I must have jumped the bill;  
Knew as well as he could, that I  
Hadn't the money with which to buy.

"Larceny"? that's the proper word;  
There's never a crime but Law can  
name.

Only, I wonder if Law has heard  
That any one but the thief's to blame?  
Say: did the constable on the hill  
Tell you about the closed-up mill?  
Tell you of men that must beg or steal  
To give their babies and wives a meal?

Yes, I have begged—and I'll tell you  
how:

I walked the roads and the fields and  
lanes,  
And asked for work with a pleading  
brow,

And came back empty for all my pains!  
Say: did the constable on the hill  
Tell you the wheels of trade were still?  
Tell you, when work was dull or dead,  
The wife and the child might go un-  
fed?

Guilty, Judge—let the law be paid;  
But if you had children, four or five,  
As pretty as God has ever made,  
And lacked the food to keep them alive  
Lacked the method but not the will,  
Their cries of hunger to stop and still—  
And then saw oceans of food in view—  
For God's sake tell me what you would  
do?

Say! if you had a wife whose heart  
Had fed your own for a score of years,  
And never a moment walked apart  
From all of your griefs and hopes and  
fears,  
And now in that faithful bosom had

grown

A little life that was part your own,  
And Hunger harrowed them through  
and though,

For God's sake tell me what you would  
do?

Dollars by thousands stacked away—  
Harvests rotting in barn and shed—  
Silks and ribbons and fine display—  
And children crying for lack of bread!  
Wealth and famine are hand in hand  
Making the tour of a heart-sick land;  
Half at the country's future weal  
Crushed by the Present's selfish heel!  
Guilty, Judge—and I own the crime;  
Put me in prison without delay—  
Only—please work me double time,  
And send my family half the pay!  
And tell my children, if they ever ask  
That I was working my gloomy task,  
Not for pleasure or money or gem—  
But for the love I had for them.

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Bellefontaine, Ohio, July 1, 1896.

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Sac City, Iowa, Aug. 27, 1896.

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Ag 1 Ed. Michigan Farmer.

Climax, Mich. Nov. 4, 1895.

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Jacksonville, Pa., March 26, 1896.

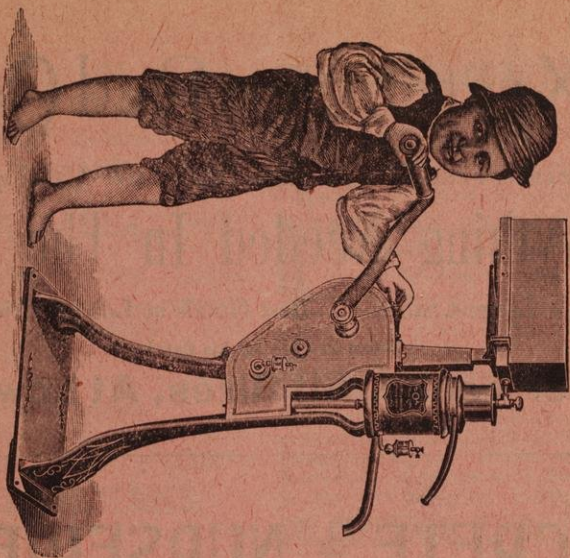
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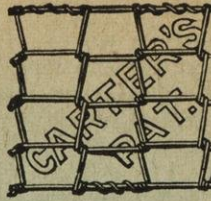
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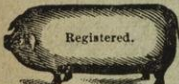
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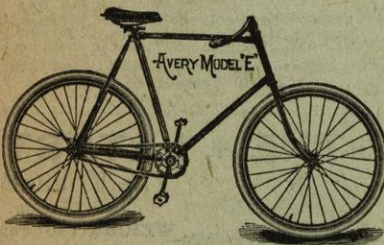
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