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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

York, Nebraska.

Vol. 5,

MARCH, 1894.

No. 3.



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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

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Vol. 5,

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Papers Prepared for the Winter Meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association,
Held at York, Nebraska, Jan. 23-24. 1894.

Continued from February Number.

EARLY BEE-KEEPING IN NEBRASKA.

Mrs. A. L. Hallenback.

I have been requested, in case I could not attend your meeting, to send an article for it. As it is impossible for me to meet with you, and make the acquaintance, face to face of the many friends I have become interested in through our journal, and others whom I am entirely unacquainted with, but who, as all bee-keepers should be united in purpose, I hope to consider as my friends, I send you this greeting with my most earnest wishes for your success during the season of 1894.

We are comparatively a new state in the great Union. Bee-keeping which with the older states has been one of the chief industries for years, with us is but in its infancy. Most of our bee-keepers first settled on the fertile prairies and beside the little streams that furnish with their wild flowers and native trees a pasture for the honey gatherers, as pioneers in a new country. Many of them being sheltered in the first years of their homesteading by the humble sod house. Some knew and loved the busy bees in early homes far to

the east, or perhaps across the great ocean. Others, by accident, or observing the success of those who turned their attention to bees, became interested in them, and the same tireless energy and perseverance that has made prosperous homes on prairies and built cities and towns from the banks of the Missouri to the far western counties of our state, has made beekeeping a success. We are a home loving people, else why are we here to make for ourselves homes? With most of us the sod shanty has been exchanged for something better, and the bees, kept perhaps in a box or keg, because that was the best we could do, are now in modern hives, and where we first only hoped for a little honey to be added as a luxury to our table, to promote the health and happiness of our loved ones we now find a source of profit from the sale of surplus honey.

We have learned to take advantage of circumstances; as the earnest workers in all pursuits must do, we watch the signs that betoken success or failure, and strive to be ready to meet them. If we expect to succeed in the fullest extent, we must not only be alert and active, but also benefit by the

experiences of others, and in no way can this be better accomplished than through the medium of our various bee journals. All of them are good, and from them, the wisest of us may learn many lessons, but our own home paper, rich in the experience of those right here among us, who are failing or succeeding in various lines of work, is the most beneficial to us. To it, we should give our willing support, and through its columns help each other over the hard places that will come to each and all of us.

There are some bee-keepers in our midst who are still blundering along in the dark, getting a little honey, put it up in poor shape and sell it for what it will bring. To win these over to enlightened methods and make intelligent apiarists of them, would be true missionary work.

Is there not some one that each of us knows, to whom we may give a few of our papers and books, trusting that to them they may prove a help and a blessing.

While the past year has not been the most favorable with us, have we not still much for which to be thankful? and as we look forward to the blessings the new year may bring and anticipate the new friendships that may come to cheer us, shall we not still hold as deserving our sincerest regard, the old friends whose places can never be quite filled by any others.

"As we journey along the pathway of life,

There is plenty to vex and worry,
'Twill not help us a bit to grumble at fate,

As onward in blindness we hurry,
For flowers will bloom and bird songs be sung.

Whether travel we slower or faster
We, if we pause not from their lessons to learn,

Should not for our loss, blame the Master.

SPRING CARE.

Feeding and Watering to prevent Spring Dwindling.

By L. D. Stilson.

With this month, will come letters by the dozen, telling of spring dwindling, and saying, "the bees wintered all right but are all getting weak as soon as they begin to fly in the spring."

We do not claim that all this can positively be prevented, but we think with proper care, much of the trouble can be obviated.

As soon as the warm days come in spring, the bees begin preparations for rearing young brood. The cluster is enlarged, cells are cleaned and the queens begin to lay eggs. For the rearing of young, food is to be prepared, and to do this requires a large amount of water to mix with the honey and bee bread or pollen, which has been stored away in the combs since last season for this very occasion.

To supply this water the bees go long distances, unless they can find it closer. In taking long flights in the cool wind, many chill and never return. This is the greatest cause of spring dwindling. To prevent this, we will give you the best process, (not patented,) we know of.

As the warm days come, and the bees fly out, get a small piece of pine board say 4x4 inches square, then with a jack knife, cut a small groove cornerwise, hunt up one of the glass cans or Mason jars, holding one or two quarts, fill with clean water take off cap and rubber band, put the board over the can groove side down, then turn the whole upside down, when the atmospheric pressure will keep the water in the can. Set it in the warmest, sunniest place in the apiary, setting it level. If the bees should not find it soon, put a little sugar on the board, and when they once get to work, you will be surprised to see how much water they will carry

away in the day without even wetting their feet, much less getting drowned.

By setting this water bottle in the sun, it is warmed, and pure, and instead of having bees frozen trying to carry cold water to the hives, over long distances of cold prairie, they are getting warm water in a warm place, and you will see very little spring dwindling.

Next, it is best to know that your bees have plenty of food with which to feed their rapidly increasing family. If they have an abundance of sealed honey, it pays to give them a little extra. By regular, systematic feeding, the colony can be built up ready to store surplus from fruit bloom, if desired. For this, we do not advocate heavy feeding, but a little fed each night. Our best results have been obtained by giving frames of sealed honey where there was no sealed honey in the hive. Then each evening give perhaps a teacupful of sugar syrup, or honey diluted mixed with twice its bulk of warm water, and fed as warm as the feeders can be comfortably handled. In this way we have had colonies built up ready to swarm, or store surplus honey from fruit bloom, the past three years.

Stand in front of your hives on a cool morning in May and you can soon tell from the way bees start out to work, which have had the best care. Those from the weak colonies, come shivering to the entrance, look around and go back, waiting for old Sol to get a little higher; while the strong colonies are ready to go to work, and like a fat steer, do not shiver with every cool blast. Now why not have them all strong; then all are ready to rustle when there is anything to gather. "Oh its too much work," you say. Well then be content to get ten pounds of surplus honey. On the same principle, I suppose you would think it too much work to care for your cows and allow them to go to an ice pond for drink, an old straw stack for feed and the skies for a

shed, and then be content if you get 50 pounds of butter per cow for the year. The only wonder being that you don't have a cow hide for sale in the spring, caused by "spring dwindling." Now take better care of the bees and not have some empty hives, caused by spring dwindling.

This advice is free to our readers (no patent applied for.) Try it and report later.

THE VALUE OF BEES NOT FULLY APPRECIATED.

By Mrs. Mary H. Osborn, Norfolk, Neb.

A new world is opened to the student in apiculture. Each colony is a thoroughly equipped government, from the queen on the throne to the sentinel who defends the entrance to the citadel. Each bee is both artist and artisan in his own department, whether he hies to the field for baskets of pollen or a sack of honey to feed the young larva, or secretes the wax, which forms translucent hexagonal cells, the geometrical accuracy of which has long been the wonder and admiration of mathematicians; or seals the larva; or nurses the young bees; or as the housekeeper in general, removes all debris from the hive; or as ventilator fans cooling currents of air through the hive; or as harvest hand, gathering nectar from corrolas to be stored and hermetically sealed—all in order, harmony, activity.

Bees have a language expressed by their wings. The happy hum heard at the close of a busy day during a honey flow says plenty, content. A low minor key indicates that the queen has been lost and they are chanting a requiem, while a sharp angry buzz tells of the presence of robbers.

With the care of bees comes a desire for a knowledge of every plant that grows within their reach. In early spring, while the beautiful tints of pollen are being brought into the hive, we

cultivate the acquaintance of the willow, red cedar, cottonwood, and box elder. Fruit blossoms are prized not only for fragrance, beauty, and promise of fruit, but also for the nectar which they yield. The acquaintance of the sixty-six varieties of wayside flowers and weeds which Prof. Bessey mounted for exhibition at the Columbian fair are eagerly sought after and appreciated. Do I hear my brother and sister from the farm say Huber and Langstroth may have been interested in this study, but is the bread and butter in it? We read that man cannot live by bread alone. Should the mere getting of money be the best part of our occupation? Beekeeping stimulates to the study of botany, and entomology, is healthgiving while it pays as well in dollars and cents as any branch of agriculture; not alone in honey and beeswax, for those who have given this subject thought, believe that the first and great purpose, for which bees were created was to aid in the fertilization of flowers and that the production of honey is a secondary matter. How can we otherwise explain the fact that the nectar which attracts insects is secreted only in such flowers as are incapable of self fertilization?

From the government agricultural reports we glean a few facts in regard to the agency of bees in the pollenization of plants: In a certain valley in California there is a large area of cherry orchard which was once very productive but for some reason the wild bees disappeared from the valley, after which the cherry crop failed. One of the owners, thinking that the absence of bees might be the cause of non-production, placed a colony in his orchard, and as a result, all the trees within a radius of a mile and a half from the hive bore full crops, while those outside the circle failed, as in previous years.

Mr. Berry, who owns an orchard of

440 acres in the same state, says: "Bees and fruit go together. I can't raise fruit without bees."

The cultivation of cucumbers under glass in winter, which has recently become an industry of much importance in the vicinity of Boston, requires the keeping of honey bees in the greenhouses to insure the setting of the cucumbers, each house 250x30 feet, requiring a hive of bees at each end, so that one of the growers, with ten such houses annually devotes twenty colonies of bees to this purpose alone. The producers of flower seeds keep bees in their greenhouses for the same reason.

In Bee Gleanings, Professor Cook, of the Michigan experiment station, reports as follows: "It is important that by definite experimentation, we may learn just how important the bees are in the pollenization of plants. To determine this point, I tried many experiments last spring. I counted the blossoms on each of two branches, or plants of apple, cherry, pear, strawberry, raspberry, and clover. One of these, in case of each fruit, or each experiment, was surrounded by cheese cloth just before the blossoms opened, and kept covered till the blossoms fell off. The apple, pear and cherry were covered May 4th and uncovered May 19th and 25th. The per cent of blossoms which developed on the covered trees was a little over two, while almost 20 per cent of the uncovered blossoms had developed. Of the pears not one of the covered, developed, while 5 per cent of the uncovered developed fruit. Of the cherries, 4 per cent only of the covered developed, while 40 per cent of the uncovered blossoms set their fruit.

"Our experiments with clovers were tried with both the white and alsike. While the uncovered heads were full of seeds, the covered ones were entirely seedless.

"Now that spraying our fruit trees with the arsenites, early in the spring,

is known to be so profitable, and is coming and will continue to come more generally into use, and as such spraying is fatal to the bees, if performed during the time of bloom, and not only fatal to the imago, but to the brood to which it is fed in the hive, it becomes a question of momentous importance that all should know that bees are valuable to the fruit grower and the apiarist alike, and that the pomologist who poisons the bees is surely killing the goose that laid the golden egg."

An Experiment.

Theodore Bender.

I will hereby relate an experiment that I had in feeding back extracted honey to produce comb honey the past season instead of extracting the partly finished sections as usual. The experiment was begun about August 15, which was a little too late to give the best results. In the first place a very strong colony was selected for the purpose. Then they were contracted to six American frames so that they would not store too much honey in the brood chamber. The frames that were left in the brood chamber were those which contained the most brood. The frames were kept pretty well filled with brood during the feeding. Then two crates of sections that were two thirds full of comb were placed on the hive. The two crates contained forty two sections having about eight pounds of honey in both of them, as near as could be guessed at and they could not be weighed satisfactorily. Now the feeders which were Hills make were put on the top of the sections and were filled with honey as often as they were emptied. The honey was diluted with water about three pints of water to every gallon of honey. The feeding began with the date above mentioned, and was continued till the 20, of Sept. when it was too cold to work wax to good advantage. Sixty seven pounds of honey were fed which were diluted with 17 pounds of water, making 84 pounds

that the bees had to carry. The extracted honey was retailing at 15 cts. per pound with me. 67 and 8 pounds make 75 lbs at 15c is \$11.25. From the honey, we got 49 finished sections which retail at 20c per section, making \$9.80 for the comb honey; there is a loss of \$1.45 cents for my pay, of sections, work etc.; but one experiment with a single colony of bees does not prove or disprove a theory. At my price for extracted honey, I doubt if it ever pays to feed back extracted to produce comb honey, even if there were no waste or loss, but I did it more for the experiment than anything else, and I got the best of it, but experience at the cheapest costs a good deal. We had several days hard rain but now it is clear and warm and the bees are in good condition now and should come through the winter in good shape.

Early History of Bees in Nebraska.

G. W. Wilkinson.

I wish to call your attention to a little incident of the first Nebraska bees that we read of. The journal kept by Mr. Glass, of the Lewis & Clark expedition of 1804-5, published, but now out of print, says that the expedition stopped over one day in what is now Dakota Co. and the officers went to visit the Omaha Indians then living where the town of Homer now stands. While they were gone one of the men, Sargeant Floyd, went along the timbered bluff to the south east of camp, and found and robbed a colony of bees and ate so much of the honey that it made him sick and he died next day, and was buried on a bluff on the east side and near the river, just below where Sioux City now stands. The river cut away the bluff until about 1870 the grave was exposed, and the people of Sioux City took up the bones and made a new grave for them. Those were the first Nebraska bees and the stream that comes through the bluffs at that place is still called Honey Creek.

When the county was settled in 1856, Jack Walker made a living for many years from those wild bees which were very numerous at that place. He found them in logs and stumps, and in one case he found a very rich colony that had made a home where one log laid across another. I spent half a day tramping along with a bee hunter near that place; he found five bee trees, and I found nothing of course, but in some cases he got me to see them after he found them. When you talk in such an entertaining way of the bees, I have very great respect for them, and I then think I would like a personal acquaintance with them, but when I attempt to be intimate with them, they resent it in such an emphatic way, with the rear of their person, that I soon become discouraged.—Norfolk, Neb.

It is with much pleasure that we received the above history of bees in Nebraska as we had repeatedly tried to find some traces of history concerning the early history of bees in this state and had never been able to trace anything authentic farther back than 1856 when there were some bees brought into the state from Iowa and taken somewhere along the north side of the Platte, below Columbus. The wild Indian however, knew of the honey bee and its stores, but whether their knowledge was gained in this state or elsewhere we could never find out, but supposed they had found them in the timber along the streams at an earlier date than any bees were brought here. Can any one add anything more to our early history of the honey bee in Nebraska.

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Answers to Questions.

No. 7. Natural swarms are the only ones that should be used for storing surplus honey, better keep the old stand for storing until they swarm, then change the surplus arrangements to the new swarm. If they dont swarm, so much the better, with me.

8. I have as few natural swarms as possible, by giving ventilation, shade, and plenty of room, but it is not best to give too much room; careful watching will tell the right amount, then if I want any more colonies, I practice artificial swarming.

9. Yes it pays to put laying queens with the queenless part of a divided colony.

Theo. Bender.

The three questions are so nearly on the same line that we will put them all together and give methods which have given us the best satisfaction through a series of years and which we shall continue to use until ample proof is shown of something better.

We practice dividing, or as it is often called artificial swarming. Our manner of procedure is something like this: On the approach of spring, our bees being wintered on summer stands begin to rear brood. We keep them still in chaff packed hives so as to avoid any chance of sudden chill, feeding sufficient to keep brood rearing going on lively. By time fruit tree bloom appears our bees are frequently strong enough to store surplus honey. At the same time we aim to have queens reared so as to hatch out by time fruit bloom is over. There is generally three to four weeks between fruit bloom and white clover and then another month between white clover and hearts ease. As soon as fruit bloom ceases, we make our new swarms, using a laying queen with the new half. In this way, I have sufficient workers to divide and the services of two queens to lay eggs. Unless there is plenty of honey coming in we

still continue to feed, so as to keep the queen laying all the eggs possible, so as to have workers in the clover harvest. In this way our hives are filled with bees and ready to fill the supers as soon as the honey comes. In dividing we either use full drawn combs or full sheets of foundation to fill all vacancies. When making our new colonies we set all the frames over into single walled hives with loose bottoms, so as to tier up if we wish.

When the clover is gone, should we wish more colonies, we divide again in the same manner, and build up as before, ready for the fall flow and storage for winter. In this manner we have secured surplus clover and fall honey from both old and new colonies alike, besides a fourfold increase of colonies. This is dividing with a vengeance and no one need expect to make a success in doing it unless they are willing to look carefully into details and will be prompt in caring for the new colonies while building up, for without proper care and attention there will be a mass of empty hives and moth eaten combs when fall comes.

This style of procedure forces the queens to lay as many eggs in a single season as under the old style in three, and consequently are *old* at one year of age.—ED.

Score another point for the Bee Keepers of Nebraska.

At our last yearly meeting a committee was appointed to visit the Regents of the State University and ask for the establishment of an apiary in connection with the experimental work. On Feb. 14, the committee presented the petition of the society, and on Feb. 17, we were informed that the request had been granted, but up to this writing have not learned full particulars. It is expected the work will be under the immediate charge of Prof. Lawrence Bruner of the Entomological Department.

The Home.

PRAIRIE HORTICULTURE.

Horticultural possibilities in the west and on the prairies have always been underrated. Without indulging in the sounding of empty sentences, dilating on achievements and future possibilities, it is not too much to say that the horticulture of the prairie states may always be as good and in all points as satisfactory as that of the east, and that eastern horticulture may yet be so much advanced that we would not know it.

In pomological lines the prairie states already are indisputably in the lead. From here come the largest apple crop and most of the peaches. From here come a large part of the grapes consumed in the U. S.; while small fruits are raised on the cheap and fertile lands of Missouri, Kansas and Iowa with greater profit than anywhere else in the world.

Vegetable gardening is one of the most profitable of western farming operations. Cheap and inexhaustible lands make it so. The prairie states have done more in practical forestry than all the rest of the United States put together. While other sections have been fast destroying natural forests we have been carefully learning to grow new ones. In commercial lines western horticulture is admirably represented by many of the most active nurserymen, some of the best canning factories, and many of the best seedsmen known to the trade. We are slowly developing ideals of landscape art and a practice of the artistic principles of Nature which will some day put us abreast of older sections as regards our public parks, gardens and home grounds. We have established a floricultural trade of no mean importance.

To be sure, these considerations have little practical importance, but they are exceedingly encouraging; and we often need to know that we are as well off as others.—*Smith's Fruit Farmer.*

Something About Hot-Beds.

A few points concerning the best construction of hot-beds are timely just now.

About the first of March, take fresh, unburnt, horse manure, to which add one-half of its bulk of stable litter. Mix them thoroughly and pile it in a compact heap, allowing two cubic feet of manure for each square foot of frame. water it if dry.

In two or three days, when the heap begins to steam, showing that fermentation is taking place, make it into another heap, placing the outside of the first heap in the center of the second. When it again steams it is ready for use. While the manure is getting ready make a frame twelve inches high in front, eighteen inches at the back and as long and wide as is deemed advisable. A good sized sash is 3x6 feet, made of 8x10 glass, or sash can be covered with cloth. If more than one sash is used, a strip three inches wide should be set in the frame, on which to rest the edges of the sash.

When everything is ready, pack the manure evenly and firmly on a level place, making it one foot larger all around than the frame. Now put the frame and cover over the manure and wait until the rank heat leaves the manure; temperature dropping to 90 degrees. Put in six inches of soil, which should be composed of good garden loam, added to one-fourth its bulk of old or well rotted manure; mix thoroughly, and run through a coarse sieve; the bed is now ready for use.

A good way to stock it is to sow in rows three inches apart, radishes in the first, third, fifth, and so on, every other row; if you want early onions, sow some seed in the same rows with the radish; in the alternating rows, sow two or three rows of lettuce, one row cauliflower, and the balance in early cabbage.

The radishes will be consumed first. In the space left by them, transplant lettuce to stand six inches apart. In

due time the cabbage and cauliflower will be planted in the garden, and your bed will be full of lettuce. When the onions are one-fourth inch thick, transplant them into the garden.

Keep the bed watered as needed and give air every mild day. If threatened with severe weather, cover with boards or six inches of straw.

It does not pay to sow tomatoes, peppers, and egg plant in the same hot-bed with cabbage, as they require heat while the other plants need air. It is better to make a separate bed for them later in the season.

Buy Good Seeds.

Right at this point let us say there are a few negatives that should be highly respected at this season, when the wise amateur is making preparations for his year's garden. These are in order: *Don't* buy cheap seeds; in many cases they are put up with intent to deceive; think of it, ten papers of vegetable seeds by mail for ten cents, upon receipt of price. It cannot be done. *Don't* defer your orders until the best is sold, as there is always a supply of the best; secure that in time, and let others take what is left. *Don't* think all novelties humbugs; they are not. If all new varieties are not actually new, they are at least choice selections, and worth the extra cost. *Don't* run wild after unheard of things; they may be disappointing.—*American Gardening.*

Manure for Fruits.

There is no more profitable place for the coarse stable manure than on orchard and garden. Cherry, apple and plum trees all profit by manuring. Haul out stable manure to mulch currants gooseberries and blackberries. Six inches is not too thick to spread the mulch, and it should extend as far as the branches on either side of the rows. Spare time can be better employed in hauling manure than loafing in town.

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Pres., S. Spellman, York.

Secretary, L. D. Stilson, York.

In giving an account of the recent meeting of the State Press Association, the Verdon Vedette ends up as follows: "Upon an urgent invitation from York the next meeting of the association will be held in that city, the boys all knowing that the secretary of the state bee keepers' association and editor of the Nebraska Bee Keeper lives in that city and that he will be liable to sweeten their stay with sample copies of the Bee Keeper for clubbing purposes".

We second the motion and will

help keep the boys sweet during their stay in our city.

Now Bro. Hasty gives us a send off. Sort o' feels slighted for not having made our acquaintance sooner. Kind'er feels bad 'cause we write our own editorials and don't fall into just the same ruts some others do. Well, we are west of the Missouri River, where some conditions are different from those our eastern cousins have to contend with. And if we write of things as we see them here, is'nt it better for the Nebraska bee keepers, than to reprint page after page of another's writing and printed first in some eastern journal?

For years we all followed eastern styles and customs, and followed the teaching of eastern writers, and made a miss every time. We miss often enough now but we are doing better than we did and propose to keep right on trying, even if we have no basswood for our bees to work on.

R. R. Ryan, an old citizen of Bradshaw, Nebraska, who moved to Salem, Oregon, some years ago, was the victim of a terrible accident Monday, January 29, which will cripple him for life. Mr. Ryan was at the depot for the morning train, which was coming in when he attempted to move a truck loaded with baggage from the track. The engine struck the truck throwing the tongue around in such a manner as to force Mr. Ryan under the wheels. His right leg was cut off just above the ankle, his left shoul-

der blade broken and his body badly bruised, but fortunately was pulled out in time to save his life. The many bee keepers in Nebraska will learn with regret of the misfortune of Mr. Ryan, who for several years was a member of our Association and for 1888 was its honored president and all will sympathize with him in his terrible affliction.

During the past month we have received offers from three different parties asking us to buy farm rights to use their patented appliances for the apiary.

There are at least two reasons why we did not buy these. First, times are a little close just now and we can use our spare change buying gum and candy for the children.

Second, we have been rather successful in using present varieties of goods and we never yet saw anyone succeed very well in keeping bees who was constantly buying patent rights. We don't believe that the patent right vender of bee goods and the successful apiarist live in the same house, and therefore decline to bite.

Now Gentlemen if you have any article of real value and true merit, there are plenty of factories which will gladly manufacture your goods and pay you a good royalty.

Excuse us from buying farm rights.

Are you having the bee fever this spring weather? Have the bees wintered well, have you looked at them.

The Poultry Yard.

CONDUCTED BY

J. H. McCLATCHEY.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

I regard this business to be an important branch of the farm business. I know that the so-called 'chicken business' in any or all of its departments or branches of culture is looked upon by the average citizen, as of minor importance, so minor as to be unworthy of consideration, but by women and children, and not by them if they can find anything else to do. Therefore I am aware that in preparing a paper devoted to this branch of the World's industry, I may be considered as gone a little adrift, without having very far to go; but certainly the poultry business belongs to the farm as certainly as does the hog, cow, or sheep, the fruit tree, the flower, or bee and honey.

Allow me then to refer back a little and give you some better idea of the growth and vastness of this industry. The poultry mania, or craze, as it was called in 1843, had its origin in the importation from the far east, into England and America, of the Cochin breed. This craze lasted for seven years without apparent diminution. As much as 100 guineas, or nearly \$500 for a single domestic fowl was considered a round price to be sure; but for a pen of five females and one male, it was a common price. Mr. Wright informs us that all England had the hen fever. About the time England and America were "Cochined," there was found in a ship in New York City from India, by a Mr. Knox, another type of fowls, altogether different from the Cochins, and were called Brahmas, (or short legged Chita-gongs); these soon took the field. Yet it was not until about the time the war broke out that the fancy poultry business began in this country; Mr. Williams of Mass. had the front. From 1866 to

1868 may be said to be the initiatory years of fancy poultry breeding. Felch, Comby, and Williams all of Massachusetts, Todd of Ohio, Foote of Illinois, were early in the field, soon followed by others.

A National Poultry Congress was organized in 1871; it died. Then came the American Poultry Association which exists today. Early in the seventies, a Standard was agreed upon. Now, poultry exhibitions are being held in all the eastern, western, northern, and many of the southern states. In England, these exhibitions are made during every month of the year, while in this country they are restricted to December, January and February; and now at every state and county fair in September and October, the poultry exhibits have become of so much interest and fashion as to attract as much attention as the horse, hog, cow, or racing departments. In fact the poultry association was the first to do away with the old committee of three to judge stock for premium, and introduced the expert judge and score card system, which is now becoming so much in public favor.

But what good has the standard business done to the country and mankind? It has made profitable and pleasant a much neglected and belittled branch of farm life. It has made possible a source of revenue for cottage and village folks who have not the privilege of actual farm life. It has dignified the very disputed hen, and crowned with importance long due him, the cock of the walk.

Some one may wish to know about how many different varieties of fowls there are. I can only say that I believe the American Standard now recognizes six breeds of Turkeys, seven of Geese, ten of Ducks, each breed being a variety of its own, and 45 breeds of chickens, and 76 varieties, making in all 99 varieties.

Now let us turn to the commercial

side of the poultry business as the main incentive to the whole business. The following figures may seem a little exaggerated at first thought. Their correctness however, is not in question, as they are based upon the census of 1890; this census is calculated by business men to reach over 65 million people, at the usual five to the family, this will give 13,000,000 households. This cannot be far from correct as there were 9,000,000 families in 1870, and nearly 11,000,000 in 1880. Secretary Rusk, in his report of the Dept. of Agriculture for 1889, says: "The time has come when the importance of the poultry interests should be recognized by this department. The poultry products of the U.S. had a farm value of at least \$200,000,000, or no less than 16,000,000 doz. were imported at a first cost of over 15cts. per doz., or nearly \$2,500,000 while the average annual value of such importations during the past four years has been \$2,216,326. Such facts emphasize the necessity of encouraging the increase of domestic fowls of all kinds and they further indicate beyond question that this industry is important enough to demand the special consideration of this department. Statistics estimate that every family consumes upon an average of two dozen eggs each week of the year; that is on an average of five persons to the family: which, at 20cts. per dozen amounts to \$270,400,000; allowing \$20.00 to be consumed in poultry by each family during the year, and you have \$260,000,000 more, making a total of \$530,400,000. A pretty big showing for a business so small as to be only a pastime for women and children. Belgium, with an area of 11,373 sq. mi., or equal to the state of Georgia, her population 5,253,821 souls, smallest and most densely populated power in the world, has 48 eggs for every man, woman and child, and from 60 per cent of her area, and a total of 274,967,824 eggs per annum.

We might continue figures and sta-

tistics to show the vastness of this industry, but will give a table to show the comparison with other products. The figures are for the year 1882, and represent the cash value of the respective products of the United States. Cotton \$410,000,000; hay, \$436,000,000; dairy products, \$254,000,000; wheat, \$488,000,000; poultry and eggs, \$560,000,000; of the latter, we export nothing, but import from 15,000,000 to 17,000,000 dozen eggs annually, which at 20 cts. per dozen amounts to \$3,400,000. Wheat falls below poultry and eggs, \$72,000,000, or more than four times as much as Pres. Thomas Jefferson paid for the west half of the United States. Hogs, cattle and corn, these three alone, each of them, produce a greater income than the poultry business. So small, that this industry is suited only to women and children.

Now let the population of Nebraska be estimated at 900,000 and the amount of poultry and eggs consumed, at \$9.40 each and we have the amount of \$8,160,000, and if you add the value of stock, both common and fancy kept over each year, which at the rate per capita in N. Y., would give Nebraska \$13,000, but say \$10,000 and you have poultry and egg value in the state of \$8,170,000; this is the small women and children's business, as it is called by some, not worth the attention of business men.

The poultry culture in the west is becoming a great source of revenue; its culture to Nebraska, is worth more to the people than forty large cattle ranches raising thousands of cattle. Why? because the produce from the sale of poultry and eggs directly help more than 100,000 families. The ranches, it is true, would receive much money and the proprietors would bank it at once, while the poultry money would go immediately into circulation, as it would not all be received by a few, but by fully 50 per cent of the population, if not 75 per cent. Continued next month.

Experiment Station Bulletins Received.

University of Minnesota Experiment Station, St. Anthony Park, Minn. Bulletin No. 29, Wheat. No. 30, Soils.

University of Illinois Experiment Station, Campaign, Ill. Bulletin No. 28 Grapes; Test of Varieties. No. 29, Orange Rust of Raspberries and Blackberries.

University of Nebraska Experiment Station, Lincoln, Neb. "The Seventh Annual Report." Bulletin No. 31, The Russian Thistle. No. 32, Wheat, and Some of Its Products.

N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., Bulletins Nos 60, 61 and 62, "Investigations Relating to the Manufacture of Cheese." No. 64, "Some Experiences with Strawberries." "Strawberry Crosses."

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Carter Wire Fence Machine Co., Derby, Ohio.

Spring Dale Fruit Farm, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

E. Kretchmer, Red Oak, Iowa, Bee Supplies, etc.

Kratville Engraving Co., Omaha, Neb.

W. D. Mesler & Co., Cobden, Ill., Fruit and Vegetable Packages.

S. C. Burlingim, Seward, Neb., Gold and Pearl Fish, etc.

We are in receipt of the Fourth Biennial Edition of Wood Bros.' Facts and Figures, of Chicago, regarding the Live Stock trade which is worth studying, and sending for, as it will be sent on application to Wood Brothers, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

PATENTS

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