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## **The Nebraska bee-keeper and irrigator. Vol 7, No 9 September, 1896**

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

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**The Nebraska Bee-Keeper  
AND IRRIGATOR.**

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO APICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

Vol. 7. YORK, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER, 1896. No 9.





# The Nebraska Bee-Keeper AND IRRIGATOR.

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## Comparative Value of Alfalfa and other Clovers as Honey Producing Plants.

Speaking for my own locality only, I am reluctantly forced to admit that alfalfa is of no value whatever as a honey plant. The third crop is now in full bloom, but not a solitary bee is working upon it. The same can be truthfully said about the first and second crop, notwithstanding the fact that the conditions are as favorable as we can ever hope for.

The rain fall has been sufficient to make one of the largest corn crops ever raised, but the honey crop is a failure again, averaging up to date, less than a pound per colony.

White clover cannot be realized upon here as drouth and too much moisture (either one) affect the yield of nectar, and we very seldom get any honey from this source.

I believe alsike is a valuable honey producer, BUT it does not pay to raise it for hay, for the simple reason that there is no market for hay, and in all probability never will be in this locality.

Sweet clover is of great value, but, another BUT, I have never been able to get a good stand or make it grow in waste places. Crimson and all other varieties cannot maintain or get a footing; they winter kill.

The above is a gloomy report, but for once I will the "truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

Where land can be irrigated, all the above named varieties are no doubt honey producing, but it would require 160 8ft. wind mills to irrigate the same number of acres, in my county.

A. C. TYRREL.

Madison, Nebraska, Sept. 1st, 1896.

\* PROGRAM  
OF THE  
TWENTY - EIGHTH  
ANNUAL • CONVENTION  
OF THE  
NORTH • AMERICAN  
BEE-KEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION,  
TO BE HELD IN  
LINCOLN, • NEBRASKA,  
OCTOBER 7-8, 1896.

Wednesday Forenoon.

\* \* Music. \* \*

Invocation.

Importance of Watering in the Apiary,  
Hon. E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb.

Some of the Conditions of Nebraska,  
L. D. Stilson, York, Neb.

Wild Bees of Nebraska,  
Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Lincoln, Neb.

Afternoon Session.

Presidents Address,  
A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio.

Bee-Keepers' Exchange,  
Prof. A. J. Cook, Claremont, Cal.

The Union and Amalgamation,  
Thos. G. Newman, Los Angeles, Cal.

Improvements in Bee-Culture,  
E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio.

Evening Session.

Music—Bee-Keepers' Reunion Song.  
Address of Welcome, to Nebraska,  
Gov. Holcomb.  
Address of Welcome, in behalf of the State  
University,  
Chancellor Hon. Geo. E. McLean.

Response,  
Hon. Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.  
Music—"Dot Happy Bee-Man."

Address by an Old-Time Bee-Keeper,  
Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders, Omaha, Neb.

Addresses to University Students,  
Rev. E. T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.  
and Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.

Thursday Forenoon.

Past and Future of Bee-Keeping,  
Mrs. J. N. Heater, Columbus, Neb.

Honey Adulteration and Commission Men,  
Geo. W. York, Chicago, Ill.

The Economic Value of Bees and Their Pro-  
ducts,  
C. P. Dadant, Hamilton, Ill.

A Botonist among the Bees,  
Prof. Chas. E. Bessey, Lincoln, Neb.

Afternoon Session.

The Production of Extracted Honey,  
N. E. France, Plattville, Wis.  
J. C. Balch, Bronson, Kansas.

Artificial Heat and Pure Air Properly Ap-  
plied in Wintering,  
R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont. Can.

The Honey Producer and Supply Dealer,  
Rev. E. T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.

Production of Comb Honey,  
W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

Evening Session.

How to Winter Bees Successfully,  
Hon. Geo. E. Hilton, Fremont, Mich.

Sweet Clover as a Honey Producing Plant,  
Wm. Stolley, Grand Island, Neb.

OFFICERS:

A. I. ROOT, President.  
Wm. McEVOY, Vice President.  
W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Treas'er.  
Dr. A. B. MASON, Secretary.

The meeting of the North American Bee Keepers Association will be held at the State University Hall, in Lincoln, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 7-8. The first session will begin at 9:00 A. M., on Wednesday and the closing session will be on Thursday evening. A full and interesting program has been prepared by workers of National reputation.

At this time we wish to make an exhibit of Nebraska honey and to this end we ask every bee keeper in the state to bring with them a sample of either comb or extracted honey for display.

Headquarters for the Nebraska Bee Keepers will be at the Tremont House where a \$1.00 per day rate has been secured.

We hope to see you at this meeting and enjoy with us the occasion.

L. D. STILSON,  
Secretary Nebraska Bee Keepers Association.

## A Lost Race.

In days long gone, there lived a people brave, beautiful and happy. Their wants being few and all their needs being supplied by the great Spirit it seemed that nothing could disturb their peace.

The brave young king and his fair queen were the pride of the people over whom they reigned while the spoil of forest and plain were gathered into their store houses by their industrious subjects.

After many years of prosperity the king becoming old and feeling secure in his abundance gradually abandoned his duty as king over a mighty people leaving such things as must be looked after to the care of his queen giving himself up to the pleasures of eating and drinking and making himself merry in general.

His faithful old servants who had ministered to his wants for many years he discharged, and selected for his attendants the most beautiful young women that were to be found in the kingdom, they of course being much pleased to be so honored, and vieing with each other as to which should be first in serving their royal master.

The King when he saw how willing they were to serve him and how strong and active they were said, "It surely is EASIER for women to work than men," so he took pity on his fellows and passed a decree that henceforth all the labor should be preformed by the women.

The women said the law was unjust and the men at first refused to allow their wives and maidens to labor in the fields while they remained idly at home, but after many had suffered death for disobediance to the kings decree they were forced to submit and before long they began to say "What a wise King we have."

The wives and daughters toiled hard in the fields but found it almost impossible to supply the demands of their masters who had themselves forgotten what labor was and spent this time in eating and grumbling. The women at last sent some of their number, those that were the wisest and fairest to intercede with the queen in their behalf. She listened patiently to their story, but sorrowfully told them she could do nothing for them "for know you not, I am a woman myself," she said. So they went sadly back to their labor and their neglected homes.

In the days when the king was young and his army his pride, the poisoned arrows of his soldiers had been such a terror to the inhabitants of adjoining counties that war was almost unknown in his kingdom. In the days of eating and drinking the use of their weapons was abandoned. Spies traveling through the county reported to a neighboring people the state of affairs and soon an enemy had possession of their fertile plains and valleys while the king and most of his subjects fled. The aged men too feeble to travel long and many of the men perished before they reached a place where they might safely stop. The queen and her attendants tried hard to cheer the dispondant ones but the men so long unaccustomed to labor of any kind found the journey very tiresome and grumbled much, nor was that all, for they blamed the women for their ill fortune saying, "If you had only learned to use the arrows and spears they would not have driven us away." At last they came to a forest and after much trouble found some hollow trees that promised them a place of shelter at least.

But now a new trouble was before them, the provisions they had hastily collected when they left their homes was exhausted. The king and the men were grumbling because they were hungry, and in all the forest they could find nothing to appease their hunger.

The queen and her attendants wept bitterly as they wandered about in the forest and thought of their old home and the abundant stores they had left behind them. The unused spears and arrows which their husbands had urged them to take with them were only a burden as they had neither the strength nor courage to use them. At last night coming on they gathered around the queen and laid down to rest as best they might for they dared not go back to the others empty handed.

The Great Spirit who had heard their cries and seen the tears that had dropped on the flowers as they wearily traversed the forest in search of food whispered to them as they slept. "Fear not, to each of you I now give wings, each tear you have shed shall give to the flower on which it fell the nectar charm, and from the flowers henceforth shall you gather abundant store. To your King and men I also give wings but they

shall henceforth be entirely at your mercy, for to you I give their weapons of which they have proved themselves unworthy and they shall henceforth be weaponless for ever.

The government of the people I give entirely to the queen and her daughters any one of whom may be made a queen when ever one palace becomes too small or the subjects too numerous for her to govern.

She shall be the mother of all her subjects and as for those males who have proved themselves to be merely consumers of your industry you shall have the privilege of destroying or banishing them at will."

When morning came the queen and her attendants armed with their poisoned spears and borne aloft on light wings went meerily singing back to the hollow trees where they had left the king and the rest of the company. When they reached the spot they found the big fat fellows grumbling as usual and ready to make a good breakfast of the nectar they had hurriedly gathered from the flowers on the way back.

Working with a will and singing as they worked they soon had a comfortable home when each season abundant nectar was stored for the use of the queen and her family.

From the hollow tree new colonies went forth from time to tell far and near wherever we go we find decendants of the once lost race. And when the summer sun shines warm and the flowers nod in the breeze the queens' daughters still gather nectar and the drone descendants of the king still grumble as they eat and grow fat till at the close of summer they are driven out to pay the penalty of their lazy ancestors, while we, the men and women of to-day, eat, buy and sell their surplus honey.

Mrs. A. L. Hallenbeck.

Millard, Neb.

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John H. Rupp, of Washington, Kansas, writing to American Bee Journal, says the season is now over, which was a No. 1 in this locality. I got 1,200 well filled sections from 11 colonies, spring count, and an increase of three, by drawing brood in the swarming season, but that was not until August, and so I didn't get any surplus honey from the three young colonies, but I think 110 well filled sections per colony is a very good average; besides about 25 or 30 sections half capped over, and from these on down to nothing.

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Reports from different parts of the country show that the past season has has had its ups and downs. Two reports from Texas say it has been very dry and bees stored little if any surplus. Generally speaking for Nebraska, *it has been a honey season indeed.*



## Some of the Conditions of Nebraska.

Paper prepared for the North American Bee Convention, at Lincoln, Neb. Oct. 7-8, 1896

BY L. D. STILSON, YORK.

To some of you, it may seem strange that we should have conditions here which are not found elsewhere; surroundings make new conditions. As you will readily observe by looking at the map, that we occupy a central location in the United States. This, of itself, would not create conditions different from other states or localities. But look further and see our beautiful state lying just at the foot of the mighty Rockies, and only a little ways from our western border is the line of eternal snow. Then look to the north, the east, the south, and find us in the midst of the greatest garden spot in the world, and you begin to realize some of the possibilities the future has in store for us. Here seems to be a central meeting place for widely varied conditions. The pioneer bee keeper like the pioneer farmer on these broad fertile prairies had to begin his experimental work all over again, he was met by conditions which were untried and of which he knew nothing. The honey flow was new to him, thousands of acres, rich in flowers, but not a tree or bush in sight was not at first sight an inviting field for the Apiarist. Wild bees were to be found along the Missouri River, along our eastern border. As the settler moved westward he took with him a few hives of bees. These increased equally well whether located along some stream or whether placed along the high table lands in the central part of the state. A little study on the part of the master, soon taught him that the flora of the state was a rich field for the honey gleaners. And that the wind and the waters had brought down from the rocky peaks of the western mountains, plants of such hardy nature that ere the frost of winter had left the ground at their roots, the tops were furnishing honey and pollen for the honey bee, while species of the same families brought to us from the south or east would be ten to twenty days later, thus extending the honey harvest. In this way we find the red cedar, wild plums, wild grapes and wild cherries, these with many of the small plants are very valuable in furnishing food for building up early in the spring.

When the missionaries first went to a certain race of heathens they found each man had, or was making for himself an idol. Among the articles carried by the missionaries were some cocoanuts, these the natives soon seized upon as gods ready made. When we, as pioneers first came to Nebraska, we did not have to hew out farms from the timber as in the eastern states, but we found farms, ready made. But ready made as they were, like the idolator, we knew not how to use them, we had to experiment to know just what and how to grow crops to the best

advantage, and to some of us, at least, it is a study yet. We plowed too much land, we sowed too much grain, we planted too much corn, and as a consequence weeds infested the land and for several years past the great bulk of our honey has been produced from "heart's ease", a plant something like the smartweed of the east. It grows in every waste place. It springs up in every stubble field, and no matter whether it is dwarfed by drouth to a tiny plant of a few inches, or whether watered by copious showers and grows to the height of a man, it always blossoms full and always laden with honey. It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. Necessity, is only putting a man where he is obliged to think and act for himself. Necessity is only putting a man upon his own individual manhood.

Here in Nebraska, necessity has put a good many of us where we were obliged to do some good hard thinking for ourselves, and as bee keepers it has done us good. Instead of moving our apiaries as some of our eastern friends advise, so as to keep near the virgin forests, we continue to plant and to hoe, to reap and to mow, but in our planting we look to a double harvest, learning by study and experience that the tree or plant, richest in honey, is also richest in fruit, grain or forage, so that not only do we plant for grain, or fruit, but for honey as well. We are learning that the best forage clovers make better beef and butter when they are richest in honey. That fruit blossoms rich in honey produce as rich or richer fruits than those which produce none.

Nebraska is today a land of groves, planted by the pioneer farmer. Many of these groves were planted with a treble end in view. First as a wind break or screen, second for fuel and third for their fruits or honey. It costs no more to set trees which serve these three purposes and the wide awake tree planter was not slow to catch the idea.

The climate of our state is such that plants secrete very rich nectar, so that the bee can gather it and after storing in the hive it can be at once sealed over, retaining to a great extent the aroma of the flower from which it was gathered. A few years ago we extracted from one super clean, returning the combs and in four days we extracted fifty pounds again, nearly all sealed, and weighing 15 pounds to the measured gallon. This was pure heartsease and samples have never shown granulation.

In bee keeping as in all other branches of agriculture, we have made serious mistakes. We have profited by some of these, but of others we are still at sea, the compass broken, and the log book lost.

The winter problem is to us, one of great interest. Some seasons our bees will go through the winter with little or no loss, then again under seemingly the same conditions, a single day of wind, dust, and snow

will wipe the apiary out of existance. How to avoid these losses we have no certain rule, absolute and sure. Tell us ye wise men how to avoid these winter losses and ye shall be held in grateful remembrance.

As a rule the bee keepers of the state have had but little difficulty in disposing of our honey crops at fairly good prices. True at such centers as Lincoln and Omaha the shipment of southern and California honey keeps the prices lower than in the interior of the state and he who forces his honey, be it ever so good, onto an overstocked market loses by the operation. But the wide-awake, practical bee keeper who puts his honey in fine shape and courts the home market of his nearest town invariably receives good returns for his honey. As a rule we have no use for the commission men in our business. They are of no value to us in disposing of our apiary products. We believe in selling, by the producer, direct to the consumer, with no interference of middle men.

As a whole our Nebraska bee keepers, are students of the text books on apiculture and readers of the various bee papers of the nation. They are attendants at the farmers' institute and farmers conventions and consequently the patent right shark has poor picking here our people do not consider that to buy a farm, township or county right of some new faghead notion or nostrum is the right road to success in bee culture. We have learned, long ago that we do not know all of bee culture.

Therefore it was resolved to invite the wise men of the east, the west, the north and the south, to hold this convention here, that we might sit at your feet and learn, not bickering and strife, but in brotherly love, explain the systems best in practice by you in the avocation in which we are all engaged.

Some one asks in one of our exchanges if it pays to use the wood separators between the surplus sections. The same question comes in regard to using full sheets of foundation in the brood chamber. What pays better and looks neater than to take off a super full of honey with a separator between every line of sections, all even, clean and straight. They do not cost much and the bees fill each section by itself, while it often occurs that where they are not used the bees build the comb in cornerwise and accross so that the honey is not in shape to sell. Full sheets of surplus foundation in the boxes often get skewed out of shape so the bees build their comb into two sections, and then the foundation is an objection in nice honey. Using full sheets in the brood chamber if given attention while being drawn out gives good straight combs. It is necessary to have the foundation fastened so that the weight of the bees will not break it down as is sometimes the case in hiving a swarm.

## Dividing for Increase.

It is said that every genius has a hobby, and we know that all bee keepers are geniuses, so we shall not be surprised if somebody's hobby receives a shock. Upon this, however, we all agree. That what would be proper management in one locality would be altogether wrong in another. For instance, in a section where both an early and a late crop of honey can be obtained, natural swarming might be advisable, but situated as most Nebraska apiarists are, I deem dividing for increase altogether preferable, for this reason, that our surplus honey flow coming late in the season, as it does, makes it possible for the apiarist to split his colonies—that is, place the queen and half the frames of brood and bees into another hive and give each hive its full number of frames by alternating empty combs or sheets of foundation, thus doubling his number.

If these divisions are to be made before queen cells can be had from natural swarms to supply the new made colonies, the first step taken is to select a choice colony from which to rear queens and stimulate them to the swarming impulse by judicious feeding and inserting frames of hatching brood from other colonies, care being taken not to give any unsealed brood. When queen cells are found to be sealed in this hive the divisions are made, and forty-eight hours later cells are given to the portion left on the old stand.

I have found by actual experience many different years, that one frame of brood and bees with a queen cell and a frame of hatching brood placed in a hive in May, and supplied with combs or foundation as fast as they are able to use them, will be in as good condition when the harvest time comes, as those colonies which have simply lived all summer.

At the same time the swarming impulse has been satisfied; while the colonies which have only waited till time to go to work, are continually annoying the apiarist by swarming during the surplus harvest, thus dividing their forces at a time when it is most important that they should be concentrated.

Mrs. J. N. Heater.

Columbus, Neb.

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## Nebraska Honey and the Shipping of It.

Within a month I had the pleasure to travel some distance through your state, and to visit some of the so-called Alfalfa apiaries, and altho I have seen and read about some extraordinary yields of honey, not anything I ever seen equaled some of the yields of honey near the alfalfa fields of central Nebraska.

About the middle of June we shipped the Watson Ranch Co., 50 nucleis, each of 2-comb size, and in less than six weeks time, each had filled their hive, some had even been divided and about ten were working in sections, whilst one had a super filled ready to take off. We found several other apiaries that had done equally well, with a less number of colonies. One small apiary of five strong colonies had stored 710 lbs. of comb honey, with nearly one-half of the season yet before them. Upon questioning the apiarist, whose name I wrote on a slip and afterwards lost, to what he attributed this extra yield. He answered: "To feeding, to get the colonies strong until the honey flow sets in." Continuing, he said, "I fed my bees for three years and got no honey, but this pays it all back with 100 per cent interest and 100 per cent profit.

Here, Gentlemen, is a coroboration of my oft repeated statement that feeding bees during a period of scarcity of honey, pays! pays better than the feeding of any kind of farm animals. You feed your horses, cattle, hogs, etc. but you will neglect the bees.

Whilst passing through the streets of Lincoln, I saw some very nice white honey, but a few of the cases were leaking and the dealer was over anxious to sell it at a very low price, to have it removed from the flies. On opening one of the cases I found the propolis had not been scraped, in fact it was too soft to do anything with it. The honey from one of the central sections had broken, and in falling had destroyed the adjoining section, no doubt this honey was sold soon at the low price offered, the price of honey for the season was effected in that locality by undue haste in marketing that honey, not duly to the injury of himself but to that of many other bee-keepers, contributing to that market.

The constantly increasing alfalfa fields, with their enormous yields of as fine a quality of honey as ever tickled a human pallet, then later in the season the golden hearts ease honey will create a demand beyond its borders, and the bee-keeper should be prepared not only to meet this demand but also deliver his product in neat and attractive form.

Although the size of this paper will not permit me to detail all pertaining to the preparation and shipping of honey, I will here point out a few essentials, required in shipping and receiving tons of honey.

For comb honey we prefer a case holding 24 sections, have the shipping case at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  deeper than the section intended to be shipped in it, place in the bottom a sheet of manilla paper with edges turned up about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch all around, then upon this paper pan place two tri-angular cleats about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick for each row of sections, crosswise upon these cleats place the carefully scraped sections of honey, with a wood sepa-

Continued on page 149.

# The Nebraska Bee Keeper

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

*Official Organ of the Nebraska State  
Bee-Keepers Association.*

Entered at the postoffice as second class matter.

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

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

## City and Country.

A gentleman whose business keeps him in a large city the year round, excepting a week in September, said to me: "I'm afraid you fellows do not fully appreciate the many blessings you enjoy. Here you have the purest air, the best of water, sunshine and shade, fresh fruits and vegetables and entire freedom from the stenches, the dangers, the perplexities, the crowding and annoyances constantly met with in the city. It is true you have to work in the hot sun a great deal, but that really is not so prejudicial to health as the steaming heat of the city streets. Then how

different are your surroundings from ours after a shower! Your lawns, trees, gardens and growing crops are cleansed, freshened and beautified, the air purified and cooled and birds made merry; while from our streets and alleys arise a stench of nasty mud and decaying matter. And your September and October nights, especially when the 'harvest moon' lights up the country what could be lovelier? How merrily the crickets chirp! How the music of the katydids rings through orchards and grove! Bless you, this music of an autumn night is the music of peace, of freedom, of rest; and to a weary city man it is a thousand times sweeter than the clang and shriek of the opera!"—  
(Exchange.)

Prof. Bruner says about half the wild bees have drones with stings, and some of the wild bees are very small in size.

## Sweet Clover Seed.

WE have just received a supply of Sweet Clover seed and will sell at 30cts per pound, by mail, postpaid; 5 lbs. for \$1.00 to be sent by express, purchaser to pay expressage. Send CASH with order.

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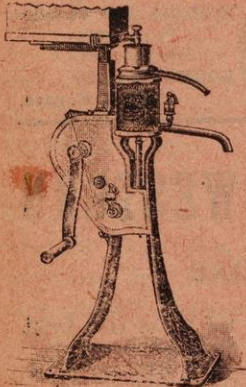
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THOMAS HUSTON.

Hastings, Nebraska, July 18, 1896.

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