

bridge over these seasons with plants that would keep them at work, and so greatly increase the honey harvest?

To raise forage for bees successfully, co-operation among neighborhoods is necessary. Bees are not amenable to any trespass law; they forage on every man's land; indeed, they seem to like to gather their sweets from distant fields better than from their own premises; watermelon rinds, temptingly sprinkled over with sugar and placed near the hives, are passed by without notice, while rinds thrown in the poultry yard, reds away, will be visited by numbers of little fellows. A benefactor of man and of bees gives a plan for making bee-pasture, which he has followed successfully: He bought alsike clover seed in Montreal at wholesale price; sold all he did not use to his neighbors, within a radius of two miles, at a few cents less than cost, for the sake of having a greater surface sown. Three pounds of the alsike mixed with timothy was used to the acre; this furnished pasture of the very best quality for from two to five years for bees and all other kinds of stock. Another writer says alsike is more permanent than red clover; will live on heavy clay soil where red usually kills; makes but one crop in a season, but throws out many blossoms from each root; blooms from June into August. When its heads are nearly ripe, the stalks and leaves are green; the seeds can be threshed with a flail, instead of being hulled like red clover; the seeds are smaller than the red, hence require fewer pounds to the acre; it does not yield in quantity of hay as much as the red, but analysis proves it superior in quality both green and dry; cattle show a preference for it; finally, it is claimed to be the best honey plant in world. Many plants secrete a great deal of nectar, but are not useful for general pasture. Among these the ornamental snow or waxberry bush (*Symphoricarpos*) was noticed last spring fairly swarming with honey-bees for several weeks. Until we become educated to the idea that bees require something more than natural pasturage in well settled countries, let us have all the white and alsike clover possible.

Michigan Farmer.

MICHIGAN BEE-KEEPERS.

THE twenty-third annual convention of Michigan bee-keepers was held at Jackson on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, with about twenty-five members present.

G. H. Hilton, of Fremont, president of the Association, called the meeting to order and delivered an address, in which he said:

"In some respects perhaps there has never been so discouraging a season as the past one. A few are engaged in bee-keeping for no other purpose than the pleasure they find in it, but a large majority of us have engaged in it because we thought it paid, and have taken up the pursuit with a view to procuring our bread and butter in this way, with the assurance that we should have honey to spare to spread on the

same. The past season has taught some of us the lesson that mixed farming is more safe for the majority than specialties. I think that for the past two or three years we have heard less of specialists in bee-keeping, and with my past experience in good and poor seasons. I cannot advise the masses to make bee-keeping a specialty. But in looking over the past year I see much to encourage us. Who ever heard of honey selling at 30 cents per pound and the average price in the United States a trifle over 19 cents in the middle of October? Why, the like has never been since Adam Grim made a fortune keeping bees, but I prophesy that before March 1, there will be localities in the United States where a fancy article of comb honey will bring 50 cents per pound, and the article will never be so scarce that a prime article will not bring one-third more than an inferior one, even though it be gathered from the same blossoms. This teaches us that the profits depend upon the bee-keeper, for if bees will store as much honey in a nail keg, which I very much doubt, it will not bring as much in market as honey stored in beautiful white sections. But this season even the lower grades will be closed out at some price and before another crop comes we will be unable to get honey to make cough syrup for our babies. The past season has established paying prices; it has denuded the market and has forever downed that ghost, manufactured honey. Is this not enough to pay us all for our losses? We start in next year with a clean market. There will be a demand everywhere, and it is the duty of every bee-keeper to retain this demand; and this can be done by never sending a pound of honey to the large markets until you have supplied your home and surrounding markets. These you can control, but as soon as you glut the large markets you establish ruinous markets at home. The bees have gone into winter quarters in excellent condition. The fall rains gave us a nice fall flow of honey. Since the season ended, rains have continued and the clover has a fine start for next season's crop."

Three very interesting papers were presented, one by R. L. Taylor, of Lapeer, on "Apicultural Patents," another by T. F. Bingham, of Abonia, on "Spring Management," and the third on "Conventions," by W. Z. Hutchinson, of Flint. These papers were discussed with animation and interest.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of Prof. A. J. Cook as president, H. D. Cutting Secretary, and W. Z. Hutchinson treasurer.

Read the grand array of premiums offered on page 756 of this issue.