

## CAPPINGS.

### CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS

#### Fruit-Growers and the Honey Bee.

From a paper laid before the Illinois Legislature, entitled—"Facts concerning Bee-Keeping," we clip the following from the pen of Prof. Cook, which relates to the benefits derived by fruit-growers from the honey bee:—

"The bees are of signal benefit to the fruit-growers, and so every fruit-grower should, on selfish grounds, protect, rather than injure or destroy bees. That bees secure better crops is as certain as any fact in science. The fruit-grower should desire that bees swarm in his fruit trees during the blooming season."

Our scientists are recognizing this important truth, that it is essential for our orchards, during the time of their bloom, to "literally swarm with bees," to realize a bountiful yield of fruit, and our wide awake horticulturist is becoming convinced of this fact, and is co-operating with the bee-keeper in this important work.

The time is not far distant when the established horticulturist will likewise become an apiarist, or will have an apiary established in the midst of his orchards, and thus, while performing an essential part towards the proper fertilization of the fruit bloom and seed product, he is assisting in the production of a sweet that is fit for the gods—honey! Delicious honey! "Not made, but gathered from the nectar of flowers, which is secreted according to the rules of Nature's laboratory."

And now, as to the future possibilities of bee-culture. I believe that if it were possible to gather the sweets from the flora, of the State of Illinois, that are yearly lost, we could nearly or quite double the record given in our census reports of the product of the entire United States. Bee-culture, under modern, improved methods, is making long strides in this direction.

I have produced 15,000 pounds of honey from 18 square miles of territory, and within the borders of this territory were more colonies of bees belonging to other parties than the number under my supervision.

We have in the State of Illinois 56,000 square miles of territory, not including, of course, the lakes and rivers. Within the borders of the 18 square miles previously referred to, is a lake 4 miles long by from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile wide. If you will compute this amount, at the rate of 15,000 pounds of honey to every 18 square miles of territory, you will have the neat little sum of 46,665,000 pounds of honey for the State of Illinois.

The census of 1890 gives the total product of the entire United States and territories as 25,743,208 pounds. That of the State of Illinois alone was 1,005,689 pounds. From this you can base your calculations as to the undeveloped condition of the bee industry, and the importance we could attain in this direction by developing the same.

We believe that we are entitled to some recognition from our law makers, and we believe that if you will grant us the small amount asked for as an appropriation to enable us to publish our reports, encourage the industry, increase our

wealth, and rebound two fold to the good of our fellow men.

Remember, we are not only an essential adjunct to the fruit and seed growers of the country, but we are soring a sweet that would otherwise be lost; hence, our product is that much saved from the economy of Nature. We occupy no territory, and do not interfere with any other pursuit or industry."

#### BEES AND MULES.

Richard Emery's mule kicked over a hive of bees belonging to A. J. Price. The bees became enraged, and stung the mules until they could kick no longer. The bees then took possession of the highway between here and Saylor Springs, and caused the team of Henry Pain, living north of here, to run away. Traffic is now stopped on the road at this point, and hacks are compelled to go a long distance around to reach here from Saylor Springs. Mrs. Anderson had to have the bees literally raked off of her. Several children were stung to such an extent that they are in a critical condition.

Clay City, Ill.

After reading the above despatch in the daily papers we wondered if some one became jealous of Prof. Wylie, of the Wylie notoriety, and desired to win the championship. If this yarn was not gotten up by Wylie, he should bring an action against the author. We are surprised that any editor would publish it as a fact, when it seems too ridiculous for even the most gullible to believe. Bees only defend their stores, and resent insults. They neither take charge of, nor block up highways, and we think the biggest mule in connection with this yarn is the one who manufactured it.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO A BEE KEEPER.

The *British Bee Journal* commenting on the recent marriage of Mr. James Andrews Abbot, of Dublin, to Miss Price, of Robertstown, Co. Kildare, Ireland, which took place on the 26th May, says:—

Few bee-keepers were more actively engaged in the work of publicly furthering and teaching the "art of modern bee-keeping," a few years ago than Mr. James Abbot, (or "Jim Abbot," as he would insist on being designated by his friends), and we know of no one man more deservedly popular. By his modest and genial bearing he was—and we hope still is—a favorite everywhere, and it has been a mystery to us how such a good fellow managed to remain a bachelor for so long; and now that a "daughter of Eriu" has removed that "fault" from his character, we are sure that his troop of friends, who are readers of the *Bee Journal* in congratulating him will cordially wish long life and happiness to James Abbot and his good wife."

We also extend the congratulations of ourselves and friends to friend Abbot, and bespeak for him a successful, prolonged and happy future.