

Bristol, Vermont, Oct. 7th, 1886.

Mr. L. C. Root,

Chairman of Committee on the Chapman Honey Plant:

Dear Sir:—As I failed to put in an appearance when the committee met at Mr. Hiram Chapman's in July last, it is not only due to you, but to Mr. Chapman and the convention as well, that I make a short report of my experience with the Chapman Honey Plant, 50 roots of which Mr. C. so kindly sent me last spring. The plants thrived well through the summer under moderate cultivation and planted on light sandy soil. I did not take extra pains with them as I wished to test their hardiness. The plants commenced to bloom July 14th and continued to bloom until August 21st making 39 days that they continued to bloom and from the first day of their blooming until the last the little flower balls were covered with bees every day from early morning until dark, rain or shine, (we had no very heavy rains during this period,) the bees constantly going and coming. I have counted 16 bees on one ball at one time, all sucking the sweet nectar from the richly laden flowers of the Chapman Honey Plant. At Mr. C's request, I covered three of the balls with tissue paper and two with muslin. On the following day there were several bee-keepers here. I removed the paper from the balls and lo, and behold, the flowers were filled, yes, covered, as it were, with honey. We found by holding the hand under one of the balls and jarring it, the honey dropped in the hand enough to make several drops. In a moment a bee lit on one of the uncovered balls and never moved until its sack was filled, when it flew away. On timing them I found that five bees filled themselves and flew away in two minutes and twenty seconds from the time the first bee lit on the plant. The two balls that were covered with muslin were now uncovered, but the honey seemed to have evaporated, as there was but little visible although I had noticed bees alight on the muslin and try to suck the honey through the cloth. This fact was conclusive to me that the bees could smell the honey through the cloth.

I find that by cutting back the plants in June they will bloom later in the season. This would be of advantage perhaps to those who are favored with an abundance of buckwheat for their bees to work on during August, as by cutting it back it would then commence to bloom the last of August, thereby affording good pasture for bees in September. In conclusion I must say that I am very well pleased with the plant, judging from this first year's trial and I venture to say that the time is not far distant when it will be extensively cultivated for its honey producing

qualites. I expect to plant an acre next spring. Were it possible for me to meet with you at the convention I would move a vote of thanks to Mr. C. for having introduced this valuable plant. It is valuable not only to bee-keepers but the florist as well, because it is a very beautiful plant and so very rare withal.

I remain yours truly,

A. E. MANUM.

COMB HONEY BY THE POUND.

I FIND a great evil and drawback in selling comb honey is that of selling it not by weight but by the section. I go to store-keepers and they want quotations by the section and say we have to sell it in that way. The absurdity and falacy of such a thing is all too apparent to a practiced apiarist. Whilst this is true it is equally correct to assert that many bee-keepers are aiding the promotion of the sale of honey in this way and it is about time for such to pause and consider whither they are drifting. Would a grocer think of selling all his rolls of butter by the chunk irrespective of weight? Would the pork packer condescend to sell all his hams and bacon by the piece? Does the farmer sell his cattle, sheep and hogs at the same price irrespective of weight? Such an idea would be ridiculed and justly. Why not do the same with honey, and if we expect to sell our honey and transact business upon a sound business basis, we must do likewise with our honey. Without one exception I have had to battle with the retailers in this matter and have only induced one to sell his honey by the pound. And I have had quotations from a number giving them by the section. Until we can invent a method of taking our sections of one weight and in sections of one size and use only one sized section, we had better sell by the pound. The advantages besides being founded upon a proper business like basis are many. The bee-keeper gets pay for his honey as he should, the retailer is not at a loss to know how to remedy charging too much for light and too little for heavy sections. The consumer is justly dealt with and has a greater variety of prices. It avoids the danger of larger sections such as $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ being sacrificed for smaller such as $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ and parallel cases, that is the larger having to come down to the price of the section of smaller dimensions, which everyone will see at a glance would be unjust. We see which weight there is the greatest demand for. Of course we must take into consideration the quality of the honey itself, the general finish of a lot of sections when selling