

his reward, and few if any have been compelled to feed for winter stores.

YIELDS.—Basswood yielded a fair crop, and, I think, the fall flow was up to the average; clover yielded but sparingly, and where this is the main source of surplus, a very short crop was harvested. In our county there was a new source of nectar, from black oak trees, which gave us a fair crop in the fall, of honey that is rather above the average for the season in quality. Whether it will continue another season or whether it is good for winter stores, time only can tell. Being of insect origin, we can but view it with some suspicion, and feel more or less anxious about the result until May shall decide it.

THE CROP.—Has been, on the whole, about one-half the usual amount, which is not an unmixed evil, for it favors better prices and we have less honey to handle to get the same money, and it will also give us a bare market to begin the year 1889 on, which is cheering for the outlook for prices.

THE LESSONS TAUGHT.—By the year 1888 are: 1. Energy and skillful management will win, even in a poor season. 2. It is important that each bee-man shall do all that lies within his means to increase the kind and area of his pasturage. The lumbermen are fast destroying our basswood forest, and we ourselves are also "killing the goose that lays the golden egg" by using so much basswood for sections, which is hastening the time when this source will be cut off or materially shortened. Let us take heed, then, ere it is too late, to avoid this coming evil. A little can be done by setting basswood trees ourselves for shade and ornament, encouraging others to do so, and much can be done by sowing white and alsike clover. I am of the opinion that a bee-keeper can afford to give the seed of the latter to his neighbors rather than not have it sown. Sweet clover may do well in some parts of the State sowed on the roadside, and is much to be preferred to the common ragweed, which is but a nuisance and an eyesore at all times.

Another lesson taught by the last two seasons is, it seems to me, not to depend entirely on our bees for a business; or in other words carry on some other business in connection with bee-keeping. Bee-keeping is of necessity a rural pursuit, being but poorly suited to closely settled communities. Hence each bee-master should own his farm, which makes him more independent of neighbors for pasturage, for I have noticed that there is more or less jealousy when one's bees are at all times compelled to forage on others' land. Even though this foraging be a

benefit, the owner does not always look at it as such.

If each bee-keeper owns a farm, it is but just and proper that it should be made productive. To this end he may engage in fruit growing, selecting such kinds as will not interfere with his regular business, and what, pray, is he to do with his time in the winter when bees need but little attention, if he does not engage in some kind of stock-growing? Sheep farming just supplies this need, requiring but small attention in summer and giving profitable employment in winter.

THE NEW IDEAS.—Of 1888 have not been as marked as in some other years, nor, perhaps, as numerous. Open-sided sections have been strongly advocated by some, and as strongly condemned by others. T supers have been tried in many places for the first time, and with varying results. The Heddon hive has had another trial, and its many friends accord it more laurels, while its enemies see nothing new in it to admire, which proves that the standard hives have solid merit, are hard to displace, and that more depends upon the man than the hives he uses.

At the last meeting of the North American Society, it was voted to make it a delegate or representative body. Therefore it falls to our lot, if we would be represented, to appoint a delegate. Then the question arises, how are his expenses to be met? If we can find a "victim" who is willing to go and pay his expenses, well and good, but if not, what then?

Another point I would like to urge on each and every one, is the importance of joining the Bee-Keepers' Union. It is conducted especially for our benefit, and we should not withhold the weight of our influence and the small amount required to keep membership.

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QUERIES AND REPLEIS.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

INVERTIBLE HIVES.

QUERY 220.—What real advantages are to be gained by an invertible hive. 2—Will these advantages be equal to the extra expense of making a hive invertible? 3—What do you think of spread-