

and there is no doubt, with favorable summer, that the bee-keepers will reap a rich harvest if they only attend to business properly. A general failure in the honey flow is almost sure to be followed (at least we believe it always has been) by a season of great abundance, and we think none need be afraid to make preparations for a large crop the coming season. Many are sending in their orders now for hives, sections, and general supplies. It is a good time to order goods as it gives ample opportunity to make up hives, paint and put them in readiness before the season opens.

### BEES IN MANITOBA.

**W**RITING to the *Nor'-West Farmer*, respecting the season of 1887 in Manitoba, Mr. C. F. Bridgeman says:—

"The season just passed, according to reports received, has been an average one in the yield of honey. While some have had an extra yield, others, although in the minority, report but little surplus.

In some cases which have come under my notice, the aspirant has been too anxious to increase the number of colonies at the expense of his yield of surplus honey. The mania for increasing is a weakness which all beginners have to pass through, and although forewarned nothing will bring one to time so vividly as experience, when it is not quite agreeable. If the bees devote all their energies to the rearing of brood in small colonies it is quite evident that there will be little surplus honey at the end of the season. There will be larger profits out of fewer colonies kept strong and a good season is not so apt to be made a poor one.

The honey crop south and east of us has been a general failure, and had they only natural pasturage to depend on, as we have, matters would have been much worse.

There is certainly a good showing for our province in comparison with other places, and the time cannot be far distant when the bees will be able to get more honey from our cultivated farms. Then our big honey yield will compare favorably with our grand wheat yields.

The business of bee-keeping is steadily on the increase in Manitoba and the North-west. Scarcely a week passes but what we have letters from those sections asking our opinions as to what success could be attained with bees. Descriptions of the flora and country

generally are given, and taking this as our data, we have no hesitation in believing that almost any place in the great North-west is suitable for keeping bees successfully, if in the hands of a fairly intelligent apiarist. Only yesterday we had an application for a colony from Battleford,—this place is well known in connection with the late Riel rebellion. It is 200 miles from any railroad point—the nearest being Swift Current—connection being made by stage, five days being consumed in making the journey. It would be rather hazardous shipping bees to that point from Ontario; we therefore directed him to a bee-keeper in the N. W. who would be able to spare a colony. The trade of the country is growing steadily in bee appliances, as well as in other things, and if those who embark in the business are only able to keep their bees safely through the winter, great things may be expected from that section. Their productions will never clash with ours in the market inasmuch as the population of the N. W. is steadily increasing, and the consumption of honey may reasonably be expected to increase in a like or greater proportion.

For the Canadian Bee Journal

### "CRITIC ON THE PATH."

OF "A NEW ENEMY."

**W**HAT is, an imaginary enemy, existing only in that part of "Critic's" brain which is the seat of imagination.

In the JOURNAL of 1st inst., "Critic on the Path" gives chase to the over-production phantom and is evidently much troubled to think that some of us are willing to "live and let live" in the business as well as other things. This correspondent (who has not the courage to openly father his selfishness) would fain have bee-culture monopolised by a few specialists. He would have a "combine" like the sugar refiners. I do not agree with him either in feeling or philosophy, and I am inclined to think from the half-apologetic tone of your comments, Mr. Editor, that you do not agree with him either. And as I am evidently one of the offenders who have been preaching "clap-trap" on this subject I now feel like preaching a little more of it to the end that the clap-trap may be only vindicated.

"Critic" says, "every man to his trade" and that is the whole of his argument. Admitting