

sent, in favor of such amending, at any quarterly or yearly meeting.

NOVEMBER 13, 1871.

The foregoing Constitution was adopted, and the following officers chosen:—*Pres.*, Z. S. Murray; *Vice-Pres.*, J. S. Darby; *Sec'y.* J. M. Freeman; *Treas.* Albert Harlow; *Directors*, Wm. Hendry, A. J. Leadlutter, Harvey Leadlutter, Rufus Hendry, Wm. Colp.

J. M. FREEMAN, *Sec'y.*

Communications.

STOCK YOUR BEE PASTURE.

As this is about the best time for obtaining Bees, and conveying the hives to their new stands, I should like to lay before your numerous readers a few reasons why their Bee-pastures should not be allowed to run to waste.

To the injunction contained in the above caption, some may be inclined to reply that they have no Bee-pasture to stock, or at least that they don't think they have, while some others may doubt whether it will pay to keep Bees at all—much less to stock their pasture to its fullest capacity.

My object then, in this short paper, will be to try and show that there is a Bee-pasture surrounding every home in the country, and that it would be a paying business to stock it well with Bees. And first let me remark that, in one sense, Bees are not kept by any one. They are simply provided with lodgings. As a rule, they keep themselves, and pay well for their lodgings besides.

Some Bee-keepers have an idea that Bees will not go farther than three miles from their hives in search of honey; while others again assert that they will go as far as ten miles. But while the extent of a Bee-pasture may be uncertain, there is no uncertainty in the fact that, from some pastures, several tons of honey are collected every year, all of which, but for the pastures being well stocked with Bees, would not yield an ounce of honey for man's use. What amount of honey could be collected from any given pasture in this country it may not be possible to say; but that there is a large amount always ready for collection at the right season, no one can dispute. And this I know for a fact, that one person in the States sent, in one season, to a honey salesman in New York, as much as *twenty thousand pounds of honey* from his own Bees—for every pound of which he realized 30 cents. We may not have such rich pastures, nor get such a good price, but if our pastures would average only one thousand pounds and this be worth only ten cents the pound, he that would be wise enough to obtain this, would find the addition of one

hundred dollars to his income—a very acceptable thing. If any man could be sure of obtaining a ton or even half a ton of honey by a month's *hard labour*, would he not willingly undertake the labour for the sake of the gain? How much more, then, ought not every one to try and get at least a share of what is so providentially placed within his reach—more especially as it is obtainable without any drudgery. In fact, no mere human labour could collect it; but common foresight can so arrange matters as to ensure its being collected. Then, why is it not collected? Why does not every farmer stock his Bee-pasture? It really is the most profitable one he has, taking into consideration the capital and labour required; for while his other pastures may, through neglect, get poorer and poorer, the Bee-pasture is not likely to deteriorate, but, on the contrary, is much more likely to be growing in value every year.

In conclusion let me ask the reader to look at this subject in another light. God, in his Providence, has placed this delicious sweet within the reach of all. Are we not then despising the goodness of God, if we neglect to make such arrangements for collecting it, as it is in our power to make? The cost of one hive and a *Bee-keeper's Guide*, will not amount to much; and though this would be but a small beginning, still, with a little care and self-denial in reference to taking the honey, a full stock of bees may soon be obtained. My advice then is to stock your Bee-pasture as soon and as effectually as you can—and, if possible, get the pure Italian or yellow Bee and use the Quinby hive; for instruction in the making of which get his book on the Management of Bees.

J. W. HODSON,

Bedford, Feb., 1872.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

SYDNEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The President and Directors of the Sydney Agricultural Society beg to report that the Society's operations in the past year have not been so active as, in closing last year's report, they ventured to anticipate. No County Exhibition has been held, nor any district one, because it was impossible. Changes in the organization of the Board and the future's uncertainty, have had the effect of paralysing our efforts as well as those of other societies, from whom we required co-operation to render any exhibition a success, whilst the heavy drain on our people for local Railways and other public works has circumscribed farming, diminished production, and injured the quality of the product; as compared with former seasons.

The general character of the weather—cold and wet.

Of the crops—Hay far in excess of 1870, and above the average of many former years—much badly saved, and of inferior quality.

Wheat very sparsely sown, so much so as to call for no comment.

Oats and Barley which, at one time, looked very promising, are found to yield badly. Cold and wet weather prevented the grain from filling, and much has been cut unripe. There is abundance of straw.

Potatoes, on the whole, very inferior, probably one-half the yield of 1870, where the yield was good, the tubers much diseased, but generally these are small. This crop was late planted, and early blighted. Some of the new kinds, as Climax and Early Rose, in fact, all the early kinds, when early and well secured, have done better than the later kinds.

Turnips, a bad crop, which may be attributed to their requiring more care and attention than it is possible to give them when labour is so scarce, as at every stage Turnips require much care and attention.

Garden stuffs, as carrots, beets, parsnips, and cabbages, about as usual. Some very fine sample of cabbage and carrots have been raised.

Apples very medium in quality, and deficient in quantity.

Small fruits have suffered less from insect attacks than for several years past; have been very plentiful, and wild fruits unusually so. Plums also a heavy crop.

The Society retains the prize cattle bought last year. The Devon "Theodore" has gone into winter quarters at the North West Arm, and the Ayrshire "Johnny" at the Forks. both are in high condition, and improved in weight.

Owing to the collapse of the old Central Board, no importation of cattle or sheep was made during the year. Pigs are required here, and it will be as well to make inquiries for them in time for spring. Sheep may be imported by the Board in time for the fall, when it will be essential to secure at least two good Rams to replace those we have lost. The good already effected by former importations is too manifest to admit of dispute, as by universal consent both meat and wool are superior to what was formerly produced here.

The great demand for meat of all kinds, and its now remunerative price throughout the year, with the prospect of a supply not equal to the demand, renders it a duty to the Society, we should urge more attention to the improving and raising of stock; otherwise our miners must look principally for their supplies elsewhere.

The public mind is awakening to the value of cheese factories; and we hope,