

I have been greatly interested in recent articles in the bee papers written by Dr. Miller, Wm. Stolley, M. M. Baldrige and others, and can endorse every word they write. Unlike basswood, white clover and almost all of our other honey plants, sweet clover never fails, and the honey produced from it is second to none.

It has surprised me that some have found it difficult to get it started, to get a good stand. With me it will grow almost anywhere it has some chance. I have found however, that it will not "catch" readily if the seed is scattered on grass sod, and that it will be entirely eradicated if many cattle or horses are pastured on it.

If sown with oats or other grain, it is apt to become choked out, before the plants get started, and should it be desirable to sow in this way, the grain should be put in very thin. It has always seemed to me that it would be a good plan for bee-keepers who are also farmers, to sow sweet clover quite extensively and show neighboring farmers that it is a valuable plant, quite worthy of their attention aside from bee-keeping. If sown at the first year in September it will produce a fine crop of hay, quite equal to alfalfa, and the plants will not be injured. Show farmers that it may be pastured for a month or more in early spring to great advantage the second year. It may then be plowed under to fertilize the land, but of course that would destroy it as a honey plant. At the present price of seed, I am surprised that farmers do not raise it for sale alone—it would surely pay better than any other crops. Farmers seem to be prejudiced against the plant and we should try to educate them and teach them that they are wrong, and that it is really one of their best friends.

Show them that if they want to get rid of it from the field, they have but to cultivate it thoroughly for two years, or turn plenty of stocks for a few years, and finally a plant will remain. If we but show farmers how this, and other honey producing plants can be profitably raised by them, the sooner we will hasten the time when the good years will come again."

C. H. DIBBORN.

Illan, Ill., Jan. 4th, 1896.

### Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association convened in Brantford January 17th 18th and 17th. The absence of a honey crop has prevented a large attendance, and it

was noticeable that some of those present were not in the best of humor, which condition had an undesirable effect upon the harmony of the sessions—more sweetness needed. Notwithstanding the fact that a programme was prepared that might have brought out much valuable discussion, the time was so much occupied with personal differences that not only was the time lost but peaceable members became so much disgusted and annoyed with the proceedings that almost all the utility was taken out of the convention. It is a matter for regret that expert bee-keeping delegates should gather together from the very extremities of the Province and not have an opportunity of teaching and learning lessons from each other's experiences, to be disseminated through the press so that smaller bee-keepers may glean points whereby they may improve their methods. We would not be understood that the majority of the members who attend this convention from year to year are unreasonable cranks, but when a few men are allowed to break the peace of the whole gathering, the directors and other officers are more to blame than perhaps they allow themselves to believe. We have attended the last two annual meetings, and have come to the conclusion that unless the directors and officers combine against such dissensions as have characterized these two conventions, the money expended in holding such would be more productive if devoted to some better directed enterprise.

[The above comes from the Farmer's Advocate of Feb. 1st, 1896. We may try to hide the facts about our meetings, and try and condemn those in our own ranks who have the courage to express their views about our conventions, and in that way try and do better things, but the country at large has a right to pass criticism, and we are pleased that the Farmer's Advocate, of London, has had a representative at the Ontario Bee-keepers Association meeting for two years, and that in its criticism it has done no more than its duty.—ED.]

Those attending the annual meetings of the Ontario Bee-Keepers and others will be pleased to know that the decision of the department of Agriculture as to membership is as contended by the editor of the Canadian Bee Journal at the annual meeting. The membership fee must be paid before any one is entitled to vote, and any By-Law conflicting with the above is void and contrary to the Agriculture and Arts Act.