

and to hoe, to reap and to mow, but in our planting we look to a double harvest learning by study and experience that the tree or plant richest in honey is also richest in fruit, grain or forage, so that not only do we plant for grain or fruit, but for honey as well. We are learning that the best forage clovers make better beef and butter when then are the richest in honey. The fruit-blossoms rich in honey, produce as rich or richer fruits than those which produce none.

Nebraska is to-day a land of groves, planted by the pioneer farmer. Many of these groves were planted with a trable end in view—first, wind-break or screen; second, for fuel, and third for their fruits or honey. It cost no more to set trees which serve these three purposes, and the wide-awake tree-planter was not slow to catch the idea.

The climate of our State is such that the plan s secrete very rich nectar, so that the bee can gather it and after storing in the hive it can at once be sealed over, retaining to a great extent the aroma of the flower from which it was gathered. A few years ago we extracted from one super clean, returning the combs, and in four days we extracted 50 pounds again, nearly all sealed, and weighing 15 pounds to the measured gallon. This was pure heart's ease, and samples have never shown granulation.

In bee-keeping, as in all other branches of agriculture, we have made serious mistakes. We have profited by some of these, but of others we are still at sea, the compass broken, and the log-book lost.

The winter problem is to us one of great interest. Some seasons our bees will go through the winter with little or no loss, then again under seemingly the same conditions, a single day of wind, dust, and snow will wipe the apiary out of existence. How to avoid these losses we have no certain rule. Tell us, ye wise men, how to avoid these winter losses, and ye shall be held in grateful remembrance.

As a rule, the bee-keepers of the State have had but little difficulty in disposing of their honey crops at fairly good prices. True, at such centers as Lincoln and Omaha the shipment of Southern and California honey keeps the prices lower than in the interior of the State, and he who forces his honey, be it ever so good, on an overstocked market, loses by the operation. But the wide-awake, practical bee-keeper who puts up his honey in fine shape and courts the home market of his nearest town, invariably receives good returns for his honey. As a rule, we have no use for the commission-men in our business, they are of no value to us in disposing of our apianian products. We believe in sell-

ing by the producer direct to the consumer, with no interference of meddlers.

As a whole, our Nebraska bee-keepers are students of the text-books on apiculture, and readers of the various bee-papers of the nation. They are attendants at the farmers' institutes and farmers' conventions, and consequently the patent-right shark has poor picking here. Our people do not consider that to buy a farm, township or county right of some new-fangled notion or nostrum is the right road to success in bee-culture.

We have learned long ago that we do not know all of bee-culture; therefore, it was

**RESOLVED.** To invite the wise men of the East, the West, the North, and the South to hold this convention here, that we might sit at your feet and learn, not in bickering and strife, but in brotherly love, explain the systems best in practice by you in the avocation in which we are all engaged.

L. D. STILSON.

As no discussion followed Mr. Stilson's paper, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Entomologist of the Nebraska State University, gave a very interesting talk on "The Wild Bees of Nebraska," many of which, with the honey-bee, were illustrated on a large map, as were also their heads, tongues and legs.

At the Secretary's request, Prof. Bruner very kindly consented to put his "talk" on paper, and it is as follows:

#### THE WILD BEES OF NEBRASKA.

Incidentally, in connection with the work as taken up, when making observations on the visits of the honey-bee to various flowers, the wild bees have been collected and studied. The present paper is a partial result of such studies.

The title chosen for this paper may have been somewhat misleading to many of those present. They may have thought to themselves, "Why, have we many wild bees in this State? and, if so, where do they live?" That this thought may not remain with them any longer than possible, I wish at once to say that it is chiefly of other than the honey-bee that I am to talk.

Unless one has paid some attention to the study of insects in general, he or she is very apt to imagine that a bee is a bee, a bug a bug, and a grasshopper a grasshopper—that there are several or even many distinct kinds of each of these insects never occurs to him or her. The entomologist, however, soon learns to his sorrow that the variety of insect life is great. He begins to wish that there were less kinds, and that each lacked their par-