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April again brings us to the season wherein we have a fair idea of the extent of winter losses. The past winter has been from all report a favorable one, this combined with the rumor of a European market for honey will doubtless be the means of tempting more into bee-keeping. In spite of the tendency to lower prices for honey, season after season, some will again venture into the fascinating pursuit. Fascinating—probably to those entirely ignorant of the pleasures connected with an intimate study of the insect from which they hope to derive their profits. When we remember that he who thus ventures into bee-keeping has generally no definite idea of his profits, no knowledge as to whether he possesses the necessary qualifications or often whether he is in a proper position to conduct bee-keeping successfully; we cannot marvel that the fascinations of a lottery and bee-keeping are somewhat similar although the latter may justly be considered more legal. To the uninitiated it may not be out of place to clearly put before him what the position is into which he seeks to place himself. The days for a high price for honey either comb or extracted, when a few made small fortunes, has forever past. Honey which sold at 25 cents per lb., has come down to 8 and 10 cents per pound. We must not suppose that there has been this loss in price and no gain. The skilled apiarist has learned and doubtless will continue to learn how to produce more honey and at a less outlay per pound. Bee-keepers' supplies of all kinds too can be secured at a less cost and on the other hand many expenditures which have been made for supplies have been done away with, as

closest economy only could allow the apiarist to remain in the business.

The production of honey has been increased with greater effort than the finding of an outlet for it. The winter of, 84-85 proved too severe for many colonies and the following summer although an average season, generally produced honey in sufficient quantities to leave much on hand when the crop of '86 was placed on the market. The season of '86 proved generally a partial failure. Colonies not strong early, secured no clover or but little, and linden was almost a complete failure on account of the dry weather. This in conjunction with a considerable quantity of honey being taken to the Colonial Exhibition and the stir which this has occasioned in the general press in regard to this and increased sales in consequence, leaves a pretty fair clearing out of all honey and a fresh start for the coming season.

It must now be remembered, bees have wintered well, the number of colonies are far greater than the two previous seasons, the honey crop is not likely, generally to be less, in fact, we have some reason to anticipate it will be better. Under these circumstances there will be a much greater quantity of honey upon the market. Unless a markedly increased outlet is secured prices cannot advance.

There is the prospect of an outlet for honey in Britain and Germany if carefully managed, and should we succeed as we anticipate the supply must be sufficient to fill any demand or the opening promised will be closed or largely so. Even at this, the price of honey will not advance we anticipate, but at such prices we are safe in saying bee-keeping can by numbers and in many localities be conducted profitably;

What is the cry in every line especially agricultural? "it does not pay to pursue them;" yet wheat raising, stock raising, gardening, all go on and men live by them, bee-keeping has not escaped and there are many men who will continue to produce honey and live.