

in the surface of the earth. Hundreds and thousands of acres are yearly turned under by the plow and bee pasturage is destroyed where the plow is once put to work, with but few exceptions. Here in the south where white clover don't grow, we have nothing on our cultivated lands that yields much honey. In some seasons, the cotton blooms yields a nice clear nectar, but is very uncertain. Taking all things into consideration, it might be time to think about planting for honey. My hobby in this line is honey yielding forest trees. I have tried quite a number of the small plants and weeds, oatnip, horehound, spider plant and others; also buckwheat and alfalfa. They all are good, provided you can have enough land planted with these plants. I have thrown them all aside and come back to my old favorite the forest tree. At the head of honey producing forest trees, of course stands the basswood. Years ago a nurseryman discouraged me in planting basswoods, he saying he had tried them and found that they died out in a few years. Since then I have learned better. The bottoms of the Brazos river are full of wild basswoods. My friend, J. G. Echman, of Richmond, Texas, who lives near the Brazos river bottoms, keeps nearly three hundred colonies in one yard and he says he is not overstocked. Mr. Root says: "Our trees were planted in 1872 and in 1877 many of them were bearing fair loads of blossoms. A tree that was set out about ten years ago, in one of our streets, now furnishes a profusion of blossoms almost every year." Now, brother bee-keepers, why can't we do the same? The expense is very small. Young trees can be purchased at a very low price, if bought by the 1000. The labor don't amount to much, either. The total expense should not exceed \$25, and this small investment will become a little gold mine in the course of time, and the best of it is, it lasts not only one, or a few years, but it will be here for our children and grand-children, and will ever increase in value as time passes by; provided, you plant your trees in a suitable location. The basswood needs a low moist place but I would not plant it in swampy places. As a general thing, swamps have a hard subsoil, which the roots of the tree cannot penetrate. Any low place where other timber grows will be good for basswood. I shall try to plant, for an experiment, about ten acres in basswood, next fall. This ten acre block is prairie land, and I will report from time to time how I succeed. This planting was originally intended to have been done last fall, but I could not do it on account of the severe drouth we had all fall. It was too dry to plant anything. The next best tree for Texas is the Wild Clima.

It grows in our river and creek bottoms and on the prairies luxuriantly, and yields a clear nectar, which, after being evaporated by the bees, makes a nice straw colored honey of good, mild flavor. This tree will grow on any heavy, black soil in Texas. I don't know how it will do on sandy land. I have seen it on black and mixed land only. There is a number of other trees yet that will grow in Texas as well as all through the south, such as honey locust, tulip tree, and many others. The willow should be planted along all streams and ponds, as it blooms very early and helps bees to get started early in the spring. All such trees will help our bees along, require but little work to start them off and as they grow up and spread their tops we can begin to thin out and use the timber for many purposes. What a blessing would a twenty or twenty five acre grove of fine forest trees be on a prairie farm after the trees are large enough to cut a part of them down to use for fuel. It saves the farmer many dollars and did not cost but a trifle. Nearly every farmer has spots of waste land on his farm which would add to his income if planted in forest trees. I would never plant anything for honey alone, as it takes at best one thousand acres of pasturage for an apiary of 150 to 200 hundred colonies.

Thorndale, Texas.

From The American Bee-Keeper.

New Inventions.

BY JOHN F. GATES.

THE question has been asked "Are we drifting from our moorings." I used to think that we were not, but if all bee keepers anchored to one idea there would be no improvements. While it is safe to our own pockets to be conservative, yet no class has done more to advance the interests of bee-keepers than those who experiment, and seem not to be satisfied with their present condition. Had the inventors of the Monitor been contented with wooden war ships our great American Republic would have been divided. Had we all been content with stage coaches where would our railroads have been? Had Edison preferred to sit at his telegraph instrument we should now be without his master ideas. This onward impelling force in Americans has sought out so many good things in the last fifty years that I have not space to tell them. Some rejoice in real improvements, well, we can't grind out a grist of real improvements to order. We have many discouragements and losses before we succeed in turning out one. Many of these inventions must be tested by bee keepers before a true verdict can be given, and we should all be willing