

honey-producer would be more agreeable to the eye on such waste lands than sand-burrs, brambles, fennels, and other weeds which grow spontaneously on road-sides and waste-places.

In view of the uncertainty of sufficient continuous bloom being provided by nature, and the certainty of annually recurring periods of cold weather, long and hazardous confinement — to insure success, the apiarist should as carefully and certainly provide pasturage for the bees as to furnish them with hives to shelter them from the cold and storms.

Do you ask, "Will it *pay* to plant for honey?" Let me reply by asking if it *does pay* to keep bees to gather honey at all? If you answer yes, then let me assert—the more bloom, the more honey for the bees to gather; the more honey gathered, the more honey for the market; the more honey sold, the more money for the bee-keeper, and the better the business will pay!

To further illustrate this point: If a honey flow of thirty days (which constitutes an average honey season, one year with another) will pay will not 150 days pay *five times as much*? If by judicious planting, we can lengthen the honey season, do we not thereby correspondingly increase the honey crop? and does not this increase of the marketable honey-crop correspondingly increase the income of the apiarist, and add just that much to the material wealth of the nation?

Rational replies to these queries, by progressive apiarists, ought to demonstrate that *it will pay to plant for honey*; and also that as the country grows older and the population increases, it becomes a *positive necessity*.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN.

Read before N. A. B. K. Association.

ONTARIO REPORT FOR 1885.

BEE-KEEPING in Ontario for the last year has not been of the most flattering kind. During the last winter and spring about 75 per cent. of our bees perished. This great loss was brought about by three principal factors, poor stores, long continued cold in both winter and spring, and inexperience.

Generally speaking those of long experience in apiculture who have given much time, study, painstaking and *exacting care*, in a word, those who make bee-keeping a *specialty* and who are *adapted* to the business came through with comparatively little loss. Hence it is plain that this great loss fell principally upon those who as a rule *neglected* some other business to enjoy an immense amount of pleasure and grow suddenly rich by *keeping bees*. The large amount of dead filthy honey thrown upon the market this last

spring has done no little harm to the profession. Interested parties are constantly promulgating the idea that everybody should keep bees, which results in no inconsiderable loss to the country. Beside the indirect loss, by diverting the minds of many from their legitimate calling I believe a fair calculation would show the startling fact that every pound of honey produced in Ontario for the last six years has cost the producers on an average not less than 25 cents per lb.

The teaching that everybody should do everything for himself is a retrograde movement undermining the best manufacturing, producing, carrying and commercial interests, and tends to semi-barbarism. No matter how persistently or plausibly put "the trail of the serpent is over them all." "Every man to his trade" is a noble motto and "brings the greatest possible good to the greatest possible number."

The season was a poor one, the take being about 50 per cent. below the average. The weather was too cold and wet with occasional hot spells. The principal honey producing flowers were abundant, but the elements failed to get into the proper humor to inspire them with their natural love for the secretion of the delicate, sparkling sweets and the friendly visits of the honey bee. In spite of all this some of the short crop of 1884 is yet on the markets but we will have a clean market for '86. These are several practices that militate against the true progress of apiculture in Ontario besides those already referred to:

(1st.) Extracting green or unripe honey. It is impossible by human art or skill to impart that exquisitely fine finished flavor that the bees give it when left with them until capped.

(2nd.) The practice of feeding sugar either for stimulating or wintering purposes. It is very difficult to disabuse the public mind. They know we feed sugar and they seem bound to cherish the belief that some way or other it gets into the honey. If we all fed honey instead of sugar a less quantity would be thrown upon the markets, and a correspondingly higher price would be obtained; besides inspiring confidence in the purity of our honey.

(3rd.) Small bee-keepers demoralize our markets sadly and give a good deal of trouble by allowing their bees to be robbed.

(4th.) And last, but not least, I fear the most of us will have to plead guilty to the charge of painting the bright side of bee-keeping too bright, while we keep the dark side obscurely in the dark. In fact it is much easier to show up the bright side than the dark, it seems to loom up so easily.