

REVERSIBLE HIVES.

Very few inventions have caused more remark of late than Heddon's new hive, prices are so low—though prices run no lower in apiculture than in agriculture and other kindred points—that any scheme, method, or invention that will lessen labor will surely attract attention and win patrons. This is what the new Heddon hive and system promises to do, and many of us who have put it to the practical test have found that it did not promise in vain. We are proud that it is one of our own bee-keepers that has conferred this boon upon the bee-keeping public. There is no doubt but that the reversing system has come to stay. Many, even now, have adopted it never to return to the old methods. Another invention, the Solar wax extractor, has grown rapidly into public favor the past year. It is a decided improvement even upon the Swiss extractor. It is convenient, safe, inexpensive and is *sure* to give the very nicest wax, and that with no trouble or expense.

THE OUTLOOK.

There are four very important questions which should receive our most careful consideration at this time:

First, the price of honey, and how can it be marketed. I said to one of our large honey producers a few days ago, who before last year always secured fifteen cents for all his extracted honey, and sold last year at eight cents and this year for seven; are you not discouraged at these prices? "No, indeed," says he, "it pays as well as any other farm product." Even if this is so, we may well take counsel from our wisest producers and consider whether there are any measures practicable which may be adopted to stay the rapid decline in prices and so stimulate the markets that they may come seeking our products. I hope we may thoroughly discuss this subject of "Honey Markets," that each may go home more hopeful, more able to solve the pending difficulty.

Our second point, is how to raise the finest comb honey the most cheaply; while extracted goes begging in some of our markets, comb honey finds a ready sale at remunerative rates. It is then a matter of great moment to learn how to get the most of this beautiful comb honey in the easiest way. It seems to me with the Heddon Hive, we have reached the paradise of the comb honey producer. Surely, this is a matter we may well discuss in hopes to gain still greater light.

The third question that we may do well to discuss, is that of honey plants. How often we find our harvest cut off just at its dawn. The flowers; white clover or basswood forsooth, seem to be pouring out the nectar in profusion, when, presto! all is changed: the bees hang idly about the

hive, storing ceases, and the apiarist's profits are reduced to the minimum. Now, is it not possible to secure plants that will ensure a continuous flow despite rain or drouth. I am sure I have seen just such results, twice, once through raspberry, and again, through alsike clover. In both cases white clover was abundant, but for some subtle reason, known only to nature's Great Chemist, refused her sweets, while other plants yielded abundantly. It seems to me that here is a most fruitful field for experimentation. Happy the man who discovers and makes known, how, by judicious planting, we may ensure a fine honey product each season.

The last subject I wish to suggest, is that of improved kinds of bees. We all know that the common black bee has its merits. The same is true of each of the other races, Carniolan, Syrian, Cyprian and Italian. To say that these races cannot be so combined as to produce a bee that shall combine all the merits of all our present races, with the demerits eliminated is to show a total ignorance of all the law of breeding. The same skill and care that gave us our noble shorthorns and Hereford will give us the ideal bee. To secure this result we must look after both the drones and queens, and must be quick to note changes for the better or worse, that we may lay hold of the one and stamp out the other. I well know that there are great obstacles in the way of success, but that they are unsurmountable, I do not believe, and here, as everywhere, success is engaged by the effort it costs.

An event of no small importance to bee-keepers was the sending of a commission by Ontario or Canada to represent the Dominion in London at the Colonial Exhibition. Such an exhibit and the wide distribution of American honey—for though this commission has *talked Canada, Canada!* still they are a part of America—will do much to build up a foreign demand and market not only for Canada but the U. S. as well. We owe D. A. Jones and party a vote of thanks. But I promised to be brief, and though there is much else that I would like to discuss, I forbear and leave these and other matters for your consideration.

A. J. Cook, President.

Following this came a paper by T. F. Bingham on the subject:

WHO SHOULD KEEP BEES.

HA! ha! ha! Just as if in this free country anyone should not keep bees if they wish to. But, it is not in this sense that the question was designed to be discussed. But who could, to the best advantage, keep bees? No one could question the right of him who pleases to keep bees—so to do. Subject, of