

THE CARNIOLAN ALPINE BEE.

Indexed. Characteristics.

The Carniolan Alpine bee is of the same external appearance as the German bee, with the exception, that in color she is of much lighter shade than the latter. Her color is whitish gray. But her most advantageous characteristics are her gentleness, hardiness, industry and immense prolificness.

The gentleness of the Carniolan Alpine bee is acknowledged by all bee-keepers who have handled her. In Carniola the apiaries are often near roads and open places frequented by adults and children, but it never occurs that people or animals are attacked by bees. Children play around the apiaries, without being endangered by them. Bee veils in Carniola are not used. Carniolan bee-keepers brush the swarms with bare hands into the basket.

The gentleness of the Carniolan bee has won her many friends among the apiarists of the world, and not a few of them have become such only on account of this virtue.

Regarding the industry and diligence of the Carniolan bee, let us cite an excerpt from the book "Die Krainer Biene," (The Carniolan Bee), which A. Alfonsus, one of the foremost German experts in apiculture has published:

"That the Carniolan bee is especially adapted for places with late honey-flow, is a long known fact. But the expert bee-keeper, living in localities, where only one early flow occurs, will certainly appreciate and utilize her unexcelled virtues even under such conditions.

"In proof of the great economical value of the Carniolan Alpine bee, the significant fact may be stated, that the report of this bee, without any great effort of advertising, has reached such large dimensions, that the Italian bee, whose praises eminent apiculturists so loudly proclaimed has disappeared almost en-

tirely, in a short time, from the field of apiculture.

Under all conditions, the Carniolan bee is a valuable creature for breeding purposes, and we are glad that she has met with such a wide-spread appreciation of her utility."

For the better understanding of the foregoing extract it may be here remarked that the author has in mind the European non-Italian Countries, when he speaks of the disappearance of the Italian bee from the field of apiculture.

The "Wiener Bienenvater" in its issue, No. 12, 1905, published an article showing that at trials conducted at a government experimental station, the Carniolan bee surpassed her German and Italian competitors in the quantity of honey gathered.

The ability and industry of the Carniolans on red clover, when other races keep away from the same, is indisputable. The "Muenchener Bienen-zeitung," a couple of years ago, printed an article bearing on this fact, saying among other things: "The dry weather of the past season favored work on red clover, and the Carniolans appeared on it in full force, while the Americanized red clover bees did not work on it at all." The "American Bee Journal," has in its issue of December, 1910, page 384, a correspondence in which the writer, J. L. Byer, says: "So far as I can recall, all the advertisers of long-tongued stock had Italians to offer, and as the best workers I have had on red clover have, as a rule, been Carniolans."

The length of tongue in the different strains of bees may or may not have something to do with the relative ability of the bees to find honey in diverse plants. This thing, however, is certain that the gray Carniolan bee of the Alps—the legs and greater part of whose body is covered with a hoary filament, whose exterior shows sturdiness combined with agility—could have evolved these external

characteristics only in tudes of her home mern spurs of the Juli wanks, where, in the even in February), ex winds and stinging fr she searches the high ers and blossoms that the sun of this season the clefts and crevices mountain sides. The tion, the rarity of blossoms, the long v descent in the teeth ments, have steeled h her honey-finding inst the grim determinati perseverance to get th plants, the blossoms yield the same to othe have been bred, and comfortable physical

The pure blooded Carniolans alone are of value for ments. The Alpine b Carniola, producing g bee which is wanted l best breeders of fine

It may here be said of Carniola than Up blooded Carniolan be Lower, and other par are found isolated el rounded by high barr the pure blood of the mains undefiled by with foreign blood. respect fully equal t Upper Carniola.

The immense prolific Carniolan Alpine bee is Gerstung, expert and ture, in the following swarm of Carniolan A on May 16, developed the end of June ten comb surface) were c brood and honey. virgin swarm weighi