

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE WEATHER—ALSIKE—BUCKWHEAT.

Ⓘ DON'T know what kind of weather you are having up there or how you feel about it; but I can assure you down here it is still so perverse, or contrary, or whatever you may call it, that our patience is likely soon to give out. The clover has been here for several days—that is, the bloom—but on account of the bad weather it has yielded but very little honey. This is the 24th of June and the bees are getting barely enough to go on with. A few colonies have gathered a little surplus but I have taken none from them yet, while last season, I find on reference to my notes that the honey flow from the Alsike clover commenced the 12th of this month and continued until July 15th. I began to extract June 20th. So you see we are twelve days behind last year, and this is quite an item in the honey season which at the best is none too long. If the weather does not change for the better soon we shall have to look to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL as our only resource. It supplies us with so many good things that we must of course look to it for good weather with all the rest! We want nice, warm, honey-secreting weather, and "don't you forget it," brother Jones! Very likely by the time this is in type, the weather will be good anyway, but I suppose the JOURNAL will take the credit all the same. Well, if only comes right off, we will for that matter, give anything or anybody credit who wants it. With a lot of hives painted and ready; a lot of sections primed for the shot; a lot of upper stories filled with empty comb, asking to be let alone by the moth and filled with honey; a lot of receptacles ("warranted" not to leak) ready to receive the fluid nectar; and, most important of all, a lot of the liveliest kinds of bees fairly boiling over for work,—with all these things highly agog, an active apiarist with the mental motive temperament (slightly touched with the bilious) would naturally want matters to move right along and the bad weather to clear out and clear off *instanter*. In almost everything we are in the habit of taking things philosophically, and making the best of the inevitable; but this present predicament is a little too much to bear. You know now, MR. JOURNAL, what we want, and what we want right off! *Verbum sat sapienti*.

The Alsike clover is a splendid crop with me this season. I have been sowing it, more or less, for about fifteen years, and my experience with it has convinced me of the following:

1st. It is the best honey plant we have in this section, yielding honey of the finest quality and

secreting sometimes when the white clover fails to yield.

2nd. It makes better feed for stock than the red clover, the fibre being finer and more palatable. It is less rank in growth than the red, but the inferior quantity is more than made up by the superior quality.

3rd. It generously yields seed when the red utterly fails, and the seed commands a good price. The seed, however, must be taken from the first crop. When cut for hay before the seed ripens, there is usually a second bloom, though the after-bloom sometimes fails to yield honey. Every farmer bee-keeper who cultivates land contiguous to his apiary ought by all means to sow the Alsike liberally and supply his neighbors with the seed at a moderate price. The past spring, besides what I sowed myself, I supplied my near neighbours with several bushels of the seed at the same price they would have had to pay for the red. As the Alsike always commands from two to four dollars more on the bushel than red, and as it goes farther, the seed being smaller, my neighbors take it readily at the same price the red is bringing. And as to those bee-keepers who live in or near towns and villages and who have themselves no land to sow to Alsike, I think it would pay them (indeed, be a good investment) to buy the Alsike seed in the spring and sell it out again at the reduced price to the farmers surrounding them within an area of a mile or two at least.

It also pays the bee-keeper to supply seed buckwheat. I am in the habit of giving my neighbors all they will sow, gratis. Last year the buckwheat honey was no unimportant portion of the season's crop. I sow the first lot about the first of June, and the second lot about the 10th. Then the neighbors keep sowing for a crop from about June 20th to July 10th, after which, in about ten days, I begin again and sow on at intervals, till the 1st of August. This gives a long and continuous bloom lasting till the frost cuts it short.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., June 24th, 1885.

We presume the honey season will extend to make up for the twelve days lost at the beginning, as everything seems to be late this season. Vennor is dead, and Wiggins is so busy getting up storms, he has no time to prepare fine honey weather, so suppose we will have to try our hand at it. We can endorse most emphatically all you say about Alsike, as very many farmers now are