

Communications

THE O.B.K.A. DIRECTORS AND THE
HONEY CROP REPORTS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I was asked the question, "What is the object of the government in giving grants of money annually to the fruit growers, bee-keepers and other associations?" At that time I scarcely knew what answer to make, for, aside from attendance at the annual convention, the report of which is published by the government and the "Canadian Bee Journal," I did not know of any duties that the officers and directors were called upon to perform. As I understand it, the object of the government in making these grants is to promote and encourage these different industries, by dividing the province up into districts with a representation from each who should meet from time to time and give reports as to the state of the industry in his district. I do not know what other societies have done, but I am not aware that any reports has been made by the district representatives with regard to bee culture, with the exception of those made by the different affiliated societies. As the affiliated societies are comparatively few in number and do not represent the whole province, I think, Mr. Editor, your suggestion in the March number of the C.B.J. is timely, that the directors of the O.B.K.A. be requested to make a report of the state of bee-keeping and honey crops in their respective districts. While it may be difficult to get as full or complete reports in this way as we could wish, still at present we are almost completely in the dark with regard to knowing the state of the

honey crop, and if a report from each district could be published in the C.B.J. showing where honey was plentiful or scarce, it might be the means of honey being more equally distributed.

Yours very truly,

St. Thomas, Ont.

R. H. Smith

LONG-TONGUED BEES AND RED
CLOVER.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—I notice a lot of discussion in the U.S. bee papers about long tongued bees and red clover with short corollas, but I am afraid the end sought will never be attained in the way proposed, namely, by breeding bees with long-tongues and selecting particular heads of clover to raise plants from.

I think what we want is a clover that will yield as well as the alsike and have the good qualities of the red clover as to pasture and the growth of a second crop after it is cut for hay. In this locality farmers will not sow alsike because it fails to grow a second crop, and some claim that it makes bitter milk and other say the hay from it does not sell well in Toronto markets.

Now, as alsike is simply a cross between the wild white clover and the ordinary red, why not get agricultural colleges and experimental farm officials to work making more crosses? Why not try the same cross again; it might produce a different clover, and also why not try a cross between the red and alsike? A variety of crosses should be tried. We pay our professors and farm managers for just such work.

One thing strikes me as strange that bees do not produce any cross fertilization in clovers, for red, alsike and Dutch never seems to mix, but always remains entirely distinct. Perhaps some of our wise men can tell why.

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Editor C.

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