

As prices come down the demand will increase; then a million or more of brains will set to work and find a way to produce honey at less expense and solve the problem, too, and eventually those in the less favored localities will have to knuckle under—localities less favored as to quantity and quality of honey. And Canadians, with their natural advantages as to the latter, and in a measure, the former, if they start their foreign market properly by sending only A 1 honey and keep it up—are surely not going to the wall.

In conclusion, referring to Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson's article at its close, although it has paid me, one cannot expect that A can sell B's honey, and the latter sell it for what he can afford, and A still make a margin on it; as long as this can be done honey has still room to drop.

I do not say it is easy to sell honey, but I think not more difficult than it is to sell anything else in these days of keen competition. But we must bestir ourselves.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, March 17, 1886.

We think that we can, without any hesitancy on our part, endorse all that Mr. Holtermann has written. There are those who cannot sell honey under any circumstances, because they lack the qualities needed to make good *salesmen*. And, when you think of it, isn't *selling* honey, or anything else, just as much an art as *producing* it.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### ALSIKE CLOVER.

NOTES FROM THE ENTERPRISE APIARY.

I HOPE you will excuse me for writing on the above topic so soon after the able article by J. M. Hicks, on page 775, on March 3rd, but I had been thinking of this matter and as it is about sowing time I am sure every beekeeper who is alive to his own interest will not let the spring pass without a few acres being sown within reach of his bees. I have grown Alsike on my own farm and watched its habits closely for several years and I can not see in the plant anything to indicate its being a "thoroughbred" if I may be allowed the term. I should, from its habit of growth, judge it to be a cross between Mammoth red and white clovers, retaining the blossom of the latter slightly modified the habit of growth of the form except the roots (which are a strong indication of its being a hybrid). Some plants you will find with a strong tap root with another right by its side with no tap root, but fibre roots like the white clover.

Mr. Hicks states that the seed is saved from

the first crop which is true, there being but little after growth and what little there is seldom yields honey. But the first growth just swarms with bees for about three weeks, or from the time its rich blossoms open until the seed is ripe. In my locality it begins to yield honey shortly after white clover and continues well into basswood. Believing it to be a hybrid I am watching the fields for another cross and shall try this coming summer to produce one between it (Alsike) and the small kind of clover. If this could be effected the prospects for clover honey could scarcely be estimated. If Alsike would only grow quickly after being cut it would soon supplant all other clovers in this locality. Farmers are in the habit of pasturing their meadows for a short time in the latter part of summer and want a clover that will start quick. This the small kind will do, but insects work in it to such an extent that no seed can be saved and it is not doing nearly so well as formerly. Alsike is perfectly hardy, of extra quality as hay, a heavy seeder reaching in rare cases to ten bushels per acre, and in all respects just what the farmer wants, only it grows once a year. Will not Prof. Cook or some other "scientific chap" help us in our endeavors to make a cross. If it is possible to do it what we now want is a clover that will give two crops per year of good quality with the blossom so our bees can get at the honey. That kind of clover farmers will not want a second invitation to to take hold of.

C. M. GOODSPEED.

P. S.—My bees are all alive so far, winter in cellar, temperature from 32° to 40°. The consumption of honey has been *very light*. No indication of disease. Snow nearly all gone.

No doubt Prof. Cook or some other scientist will be able to give us another hybrid clover, but it would require several years to test it sufficiently to ascertain whether or not it possessed any honey producing qualities. Would not the pollen taken from the red-clover and dusted over the protected heads of white clover assist in the matter? It seems to us that although the Alsike does not yield as much fall pasture, yet the superior quality of the hay and value of seed per acre have far overbalanced that. Red clover will soon be a thing of the past as Alsike seed is now in great demand not only for seeding purposes but for dyeing purposes. We are informed that large quantities are being shipped to Europe for that purpose.