

Insects and Alfalfa Seeding.

It is a well-known fact that honey-making insects play a very important part in the growing of several of the clover seeds. As pointed out by the Canadian Bee Journal, alfalfa depends very largely upon bees for its chances of seeding.

Nearly all experiments show that if insects are excluded from alfalfa flowers by means of screens, very few or no seeds are produced, whereas adjoining plants not screened produce an abundance of seed if other conditions are favorable. However, in northern Montana heavy seed crops have been obtained in certain seasons when general observations failed to indicate the presence of insects in numbers anywhere near what was considered sufficient to account for the fertilization of the flowers. The principal effect of the insects appears to be the tripping or releasing of certain of the flower parts, which operation is essential to fertilization. This tripping can be done artificially by thrusting a pencil point or other object into the flower, or by pressing the flower between the thumb and finger, when the tripping can readily be observed. Observations indicate that the ordinary honey bee trips the flower much less frequently than do bumblebees or some of the wild bees. The honey bee ordinarily inserts its proboscis at the side of the tripping mechanism without releasing it, while the bee's weight on the flower is not sufficient to set on the tripping mechanism, as is the case with the bumblebee. The small wild bees trip the flower owing to the fact that they must struggle to reach the nectar, and in this struggling they release the tripping mechanism. Ordinarily the alfalfa flower is fertilized with pollen from some other flower, but it is able to set seed with its own pollen if the flower be tripped.

TRADE TOPIC.

The scheme of the Central Canada Exhibition management to pay freight charges on exhibits up to 100 miles of Ottawa, so as to equal conditions for farmers and stockmen in remote places, has brought entries from every Province in Canada. British Columbia fruit-growers are likely to send many exhibits. Many entry forms have been applied for by maritime farmers, and by distant ones in Ontario and Quebec. J. Lockie Wilson, who has charge of the field crop competitions from all the Provinces, says the outlook for keen competition and a splendid showing of produce could not be better. Farm implement makers are taking generously of the space for educative displays in the new \$100,000 machinery hall, nearing completion. It is not expected accommodation, outside of the grounds, will be needed for horses this year, as 150 extra stalls have been provided. The total horse exhibit will reach 500.

GOSSIP.

Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont., writes: "Five days after the collie announcement appeared in your paper I had orders for every puppy that I could part with. They were good ones, and I wish I had more like them. In meantime I am changing advertisement again. The sheep and lambs are doing well, and the lambs growing like weeds. There will be some good ones for this season's trade, but as the number is limited, to insure getting one, it pays to order early."

A well-known politician had occasion to stop at a country hotel.

In a conspicuous place in the parlor was an inscription: "Ici en parle Français."

The politician turned to the proprietor, and said: "I see you speak French here!"

"Not me," the man replied, "English is good enough for me."

"Well, then," said the politician, "why do you have that inscription on the wall?" That means French is spoken here.

"You don't mean it!" exclaimed the hotel-keeper. "Well, I'll be blowed! A young chap who sold it to me said it meant 'God bless our home.'"

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