

direct from Europe, and from the addresses of seedsmen given. I note the following: Messrs. Vilmorin Andrieux & Co., Quai de la Magisserie, Paris, France, and Watkins & Simpson, 12 Tavistock St., Covent Garden, London, England.

By courtesy of Mr. Fixter of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, the writer received a small package of seed this spring. It certainly is a handsome looking plant, and the first blossoms are looked for with interest. The seed was sown the first week in May, and at this date (July 22) plants are from eight to twelve inches high. If farmers could be induced to sow the seed it might be a boon to beekeepers, especially when the second crop blooms in August, a time when nectar is usually none too abundant.

Peculiarities of the Present Season.

As we have had cool, backward weather ever since spring arrived, and this following a very severe winter, it was generally conceded that a light crop of honey would follow, as a matter of course. In this we have not been disappointed, judging by reports received from various parts of the country. However, speaking personally, have taken considerably more honey than I expected, for as stated in July Canadian Bee Journal, bees were in no condition to take advantage of the flow. Never before have I noticed such a difference in colonies of equal strength and conditions; it was a splendid season to pick out the hustlers. While some colonies gathered scarcely a living, others a surplus of 25 to 50 pounds each, others again rolled up 200 pounds or more to their credit. Swarming was very easily controlled, in fact towards the latter end of the season I came to the conclusion that it was not worth while making a weekly examination of the one yard where there were no attendant in charge. Even strong colonies were adverse to working on

foundation. Last season if there was a frame filled with foundation in the super among the combs, the bees would often start to work on it at once before much honey was stored in the drawn comb. This year they would seal over every comb and never touch the foundation. As a rough estimate, I would say that by having drawn combs for every colony, we obtained this season four times as much honey as would have been possible with only foundation. Other seasons there might possibly have been but little difference in results between the use of combs or foundation. Basswood, while it looked splendid, the blossoms were as dry as a chip, and this, notwithstanding that we had "all kinds" of weather while it was in bloom. Whether hot or cool, dry or damp, no nectar seemed to be secreted. At present writing bees are storing a little from the "detested" thistle, which this season is much more abundant than usual. While the thistles are an eyesore to the farmer, there is no harm in our bees gathering the nectar. Truly "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good."
York Co., Ont.

REQUEENING.

July and August are good months to requeen. In these months we usually are past the main honey flows and will not interfere with the honey crop. But there are other reasons for requeening in these months. As young queens usually lay better than old ones, they give us a good supply of young stores for winter, which is a very important factor in wintering and against spring dwindling. Again, the queens bought in July and August are reared in the most favorable time of the season and are naturally a finer grade of queens. Then we have a lot of new queens to build up our colonies the next year in honey. And here is where we hit the important thing in bee-keeping is the honey crop, and every bee-keeper should work to this end or go into other business.—D. J. Blocher, in Rural Bee-keeper.