

ten colonies, and feels that they paid for themselves in the first season by increasing the yield of clover seed, to say nothing of their gathering 300 lbs. of the finest honey in the world. Had he been an experienced bee-keeper instead of the beginner that he was, the honey crop would have been twice as great. A week or more of bloom passed before the boxes were put on at all.

To go back to those first clover-blossoms—they will have become a rich brown in color, and nearly dry. Now is the time to cut it. Just here is where a day's delay means partial if not total failure. Waiting for the later and inferior heads to ripen, the earlier and more valuable ones, becoming entirely dry, burst their pods and scatter the seed upon the ground. When out at the proper stage, a large part of the foliage is green and tender, and, with the immature heads, furnishes a hay equal if not superior to that from the first growth of red clover.

After it is cut, moisture does not injure alsike as readily as it does other hay. To avoid scattering the seed, the hay should be handled as little as possible during the curing, and then only when their is moisture enough in the atmosphere to keep the stems pliable—never in the heat of the day. This is the second point of extreme importance. Drawing should be done during the earlier part of the day, after the dew is off, and again in the latter part of the afternoon. Subsequent operations need no comment until the seed is ready for the cleaning process. In order to command the highest price in the market, the seed must be perfectly clean; but as it is so much smaller than any other seed which a farmer handles, the fanning mill requires finer screens than those ordinarily used, and the blast controlled so that seed is not blown off in the chaff. Though it requires skill and a good machine to perfectly clean seed without waste, care and ingenuity will often accomplish the desired result with slight expense, and add many dollars to the value of the crop.

The first seeding may be allowed to remain on the ground during the third and fourth season, and possibly fair crops may be had; but, on the whole, it is probably better to turn it under after the first cutting, and use the ground for some other crop—potatoes for instance.

The past season was an exceedingly poor one or clover in this locality; but alsike yielded double the amount of seed obtained from red clover when the latter was worth the cutting. Many did not cut it at all.

Flint, Mich., Feb. 15.

EMILY E. WEST.

From British Bee Journal.

South African Bees.

IN the Bee Journal for October 1st, you have a paragraph on so-called Punic bees, now being made much of by some persons in America, wherein it is considered probable that they come from the north of Africa.

I am forwarding you some South African bees for examination, and will be glad to see your remarks on them. You will notice that the two queens I send are differently coloured, and that the same applies to the drones and workers—bees from the same hive are dark and light; can you explain the reason for this peculiarity?

If any one interested in bees would care to have a South African swarm, and would undertake to make the necessary arrangements for their transit, I shall be very pleased to supply two or three swarms without charge. You have my full address to give to any who may apply for it.

On the same page above referred to, 'Balling' queens is mentioned; kindly explain the term, and how frequent manipulation would be likely to cause the trouble.

On page 455 in the number of October 8th, under the heading 'Bees from South America,' your Natal querist, who 'has had a little English tuition,' is inclined to dispise the uncivilized African bees. The writer has several hives of these bees, and finds them very tractable and marvellously industrious. When first captured, if from a wild hive, they are very much inclined to sting, but soon become accustomed to people, and unless they have already selected quarters, are not at all difficult to get settled; but if they have been captured after selecting quarters they are most obstinate. Cutting the queen's wing as is commonly practised here, is next to useless, as the bees fly away, and the queen, in her endeavour to follow, generally perishes. The best way is to securely cage the queen until the swarm is well settled and working steadily. But with bar-framed hives, where combs of young bees can be given to the new swarm, there is no difficulty whatever.—W. B. CUMMING, South Africa.

[We are sorry that the bees sent have arrived so completely covered with mould that it is almost impossible to identify them. We have, however, by diligently removing some of the mould, been able somewhat to make them out. They are a cross between the black and yellow races of South Africa. In your district there are two distinct races, one entirely shiny black, the workers being smaller than our European