

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Second Crop of Sanfoin Disappointing.

Since penning that note for July C. B. J., and reading Friend Fixter's report in same issue, have been wondering if season, locality or some other factor is responsible for the progress our second crop of sanfoin has made. The first crop was cut on June 24th. and although we have had abundance of rain, it has not in over a month's time grown more than two inches. In fact, from present appearances, think it has given up all intentions of blooming again this year. The plot is well drained and in fair condition, and some alsike that was among the sanfoin is ready to bloom again. However, we are not ready to condemn it as yet, as conditions are peculiar in more than one respect concerning honey plants in our section this year. More than once we have stated that, in our humble opinion, the much-vaunted sweet clover was but an indifferent honey plant at most. Observations this year have strengthened that opinion more than ever. A field of alsike near us had considerable sweet clover amongst it, which, owing to late season, was in full bloom before alsike was ripe. Visits to this field showed scarcely a bee on the sweet clover, while they were literally swarming on the alsike. After the other forage became scarce there were plenty of bees on the sweet clover. A recent trip through the north-west part of Toronto made me think that, if sweet clover was much of a honey-yielder, our friend Mr. Grainger would be able to report a good yield from that source, as every acre of vacant land around there seems to have

been taken possession of by the weed. If it has no other virtue, it provides a lot of work for the unemployed, as the city authorities require all land-owners to cut the stuff before it seeds. As a result some parts of the city presented quite a farm-like appearance—on every side could be seen men swinging the scythe in the good old-fashioned way our forefathers were fond of telling "how they used to do when they were young." We noticed that the swath taken was not very wide and that frequent "whettings" of the blade were necessary, one of the men remarking to me that "it was beastly stuff to cut."

Material for Smoker Fuel.

Editor Root of "Gleanings" has lately been booming as a smoker fuel "greasy waste," such as is used around engines and other machinery. While we have not tried it, presume it would have a tendency to soil the fingers a good deal, which would be one disagreeable thing in connection with its use. Some time ago we noticed where one writer stated that he started with cedar bark, and then tried ALL OTHER kinds of smoker fuel, and had again come back to cedar bark. The writer started with oak and elm-wood just rotten enough to break easily with the hands; have since tried NEARLY all other kinds of fuel, and have again come back to rotten wood. Cedar bark, in my estimation, is not a desirable fuel, although a number of extensive apiarists use it exclusively. With me, I find it makes too much ashes and is not lasting enough for steady work, although it makes a great smudge when everything is in working order. Old propolized quilts torn up make a splendid fuel, almost entirely free from ashes—a quality, no doubt, which the greasy waste spoken of would also possess.

The Season's Crop.

With good reports coming in from