

disposed of. To-day in the same region are to be found scores of men in a small way who are taking the industry seriously, each owning but a few hives, but determined to acquire no more until they prove themselves efficient bee-keepers. They realize that the bee is not toiling to gather a honey-crop for them, but in order to raise more bees; therefore bee nature must be understood if one wants to divert the energy of the insect to the production of surplus honey. It is the bee-keeper who gets a honey-crop, not the bee.

In the Dry Belt bee-keeping is practically in its infancy, but is seemingly capable of great expansion, especially in districts where hundreds of acres are under alfalfa and clover. The acreage of these plants will from now on still further increase, as the fruit-men have lately begun to use alfalfa as a cover-crop, which will furnish a wider field for the gathering of nectar.

To those not familiar with bee-keeping terms, it is perhaps advisable to explain that the phrase "honey-flow" means that season of the year when the bees gather more nectar than is necessary for the daily need of the hive, and they are thus able to store up surplus honey for winter consumption. As from 25 to 30 lb. are usually sufficient to carry a colony over the winter, all above that amount may be taken by the bee-keeper. Since his returns are immediately concerned with the honey-flow, it is important for him to know its source, its real source, for not infrequently he assumes that it comes from a well-known honey-plant, when, as a matter of fact, it may be actually obtained from one he never suspected. For instance, white clover is a famous honey-plant that in most regions can be depended upon for a good average yield in a series of years, and so even experienced bee-keepers are tempted to assume that the presence of clover in quantity should indicate a good honey region. This does not necessarily follow, for both summer and fall droughts or cool summer evenings may retard the secretion of nectar; yet there may be a good honey-flow in such a region from a very different source. The southern end of Vancouver Island would appear to be a good example. Clover is plentiful in many portions, but is sparingly visited by the bees. Some years the snowberry-hush is generally covered with blossoms at the time clover is in bloom, and a good supply of very delicious honey is secured. Therefore, any one contemplating an extensive investment in bee-culture should not venture on a very large scale until he knows for a certainty the actual source of the honey-flow and how extensively it is to be found within a radius of a mile and a half of the apiary.

SOURCES OF NECTAR DURING HONEY-FLOW.

In the Wet Belt white clover is so far the principal source of honey, but on our mountain-sides, along the stump lands of the Fraser River, and in the great valleys of the interior there are immense tracts of fireweed that suggest to the thinking mind possibilities of honey production so great that one feels the day is not far distant when the honey-crop of British Columbia will not be stated in terms of a hundred, but by thousands of tons. Our honey production to-day practically equals our present rather low consumption; in a very few years we must be looking to the Prairie country east of the Rockies for a market.

In the Dry Belt region we have clover, alfalfa, and along the watercourses a little sweet clover. The last-named plant, long despised by the farmer as an annoying weed, is now becoming just as popular as a soil-renovator. A little of it has been scattered in the Wet Belt in the past two years, with rather doubtful results. To get a stand, one must before sowing mix the seed with suitable bacterial culture or with the soil from an alfalfa-field. The writer knows of only one alfalfa-field in the Wet Belt, and that is on the Olsen Ranch, between Chilliwack and Munnro. There is also a patch of about an acre on the Grimmer Ranch, Pender Island.

FORM IN WHICH THE CROP IS PRODUCED.

Since the nights in British Columbia are cool, the bees are generally driven out of section supers during the hours of darkness, unless, by means of packing or dead