

till it rained a little and then they gave us a free show, but as for honey I never heard such a universal cry about nothing coming in, and I have talked to a good many bee-keepers, and some have come out squarely with the truth, no honey this year, and some have felt sick like your humble correspondent. I have taken less than seven pounds per colony spring count, and I am almost certain that I will have to feed back twice as much if the thistle does not secrete more nectar than it did last year, but in my locality they promise well, by their abundance, if that is any consolation. I have raised the price of my honey to 25 cents. The prospects for a fall flow are not good for me.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### SOME MATTERS OF INTEREST.

#### HONEY FROM CORN, ETC.

**D**O bees gather honey from corn? is a question that I have never seen satisfactorily answered. It seems more probable to me that the abundance of pollen produced by this staple plant is the chief attraction to the swarm of bees that visit it in the early part of the day, and until the dawn has been dissipated by the heat of the sun. This morning I walked through a field of corn standing at least ten feet high, and coming fully into bloom or "tassle" as our farmers would say. The bees were working in swarms on the bloom, and as I looked toward the rising sun the air was loaded with floating pollen, dislodged, no doubt, by the rapid motion of the wings of the bees as they plied their busy vocation. Underneath the busy workers the fresh, dewy "silk" waved from the well-formed "shoots," and here was a clew to the designs and plans of the author of all economy. The fresh dewy pollen, and maybe some tempting nectar, attracted the bees, and the fanning motion of the bees' wings set the pollen free to float in the air and to so fill all space that scarcely a single one of the millions of silken "tubes," waiting to receive the magic touch, will fail to accomplish its mission. As a general thing I believe that plants that bees visit for pollen yield also some nectar, but corn may be an exception, as the motions of the bees when working on the corn bloom are not favorable to the belief that they find nectar in any paying quantity.

#### THE COMMON MILK WEED.

I know of no blooming plant that is so eagerly sought by the bees as is this rank and intoxicating weed. To my ideas the bloom of this weed has a beauty peculiar to itself, and a light "sniff" of its strong and characteristic odor is rather pleasant to me than otherwise. I never knew my

bees to gather a sufficient quantity of honey from the milk weed to impart to the surplus its distinct flavor, but in one season, and that was in the rainy season of 1882. I got some milk weed honey that season, and it was so strongly flavored with the peculiar odor of the bloom that I imagine but few people would be pleased with it.

A clump of this weed is growing in sight of where I am now writing, and a few minutes ago I counted seven bright Italian bees, all trying to monopolize a single cluster of its bloom. This weed has a peculiar effect on some of the bees while searching for its sweets. But these effects are only noticeable when the atmosphere is sluggish and humid. I have often seen bees overcome by its intoxicating odor, just like they had been drinking "red liquor."

Whether or not they recover from their stupor I have not been able to ascertain. The fact that some of these stupified bees are found nearly motionless on the milk weed in the early morning, having "laid out" over the night, has led some people into the error that it is the habit of bees to stay out during the night.

#### SWEET CLOVER.

Sweet clover is a great honey plant wherever it can be induced to grow. But the assertion so often made, that it will grow anywhere, is about as far from the truth as anything can be. I have scattered the seeds in waste places year after year, and I could carry every plant under my arms at one load that has grown in the waste places. I at one time sowed an acre of land with imported seed, and not a plant came to maturity. At another time I sowed the seed with red clover on an eight acre field, and there was but one small plat of ground in the field where the sweet clover took hold and flourished. Three years ago I sowed a small meadow with red clover and timothy, and mixed four or five pounds of sweet clover seed with it. The result is I have about two rods of the sweet clover all in one patch; the rest was a clear failure. I would consider the sweet clover plant a great acquisition to our bee forage if it could be spread to any extent. I have known it to be grown as a yard and garden plant in a "bed," for years and years without its spreading in the least.

#### RENDERING WAX BY THE HEAT OF THE SUN.

The editor of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL raises a doubt as to whether the heat of the solar wax extractor is sufficient to destroy the germs of the so-called foul brood. In the first place nobody ought to have foul brood among his bees. I have never seen anything resembling the disease and if it should turn up in my apiary I would make a "clean sweep" of it. But I am quite sure