

said that some of the varieties have medical properties and are antidotes for the poison of the rattlesnake. This plant is common throughout Canada and southward to Carolina. Found in moist woods and shady places. Flowers in August. Is a valuable honey plant.

"HERCULES CLUB"

Aralia Spinosa (Angelica tree, Hercules Club). This plant, highly recommended by a correspondent in the C.B.J. for cultivation as a honey plant, is a native of Pennsylvania and south to Florida, and will be found too tender for our climate except in sheltered places and along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. Many efforts have been made to cultivate the plant for its beauty, but our winters have proved too severe, not further north than the county of Wellington.

C. MACPHERSON.

Prescott, Nov. 9, 1885.

OVER PRODUCTION.

THE Hon. M. M. Estee, in the *Rural Californian* writes.

"Who ever heard of too much to eat? The fact is, California has produced so much of everything, and produced it so well, that whenever we do enter into competition with the rest of the world in a new field of industry, after all other complaints are dissipated, we hear the old cry, 'There is too much of it. True, it is good; but you produce too much.' Think of an over-production in fruit! Why, there are 50,000,000 pounds of prunes imported into the United States annually. There is no reason why California should not produce them all. How then, can we produce too much wine, if it is good? but wine, like wheat or fruit, must seek a market. It will not sell itself. Let me remind you there cannot be an over-production of the best of an article. If we make the best raisins, the best wine and the best brandy, and if we can raise the best fruits, these will always sell, because for these things we have the world for a market, but the world must know what we have to sell."

The writer's object was to show that too much wine could not be raised in California. While we are not in accord with the object for which he writes, still the argument as regards wine can be applied to our own business, as producers of comb and extracted honey. If we "make the best honey, it will *always* sell, because we have the world for a market; but the world must know what we have to sell."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEES IN NORTHERN CANADA.

AS Mr. C. F. Smith, of Cheboygan, is enquiring how bees have done in Northern Canada I will give my report. The spring of 1885 was at least two weeks later than usual in this locality—we are about 133 miles north of Toronto on the Northern Railway—consequently bees did not breed with their wonted vigor and by the time the queens were in full swing laying many old bees had died off leaving them somewhat weak in bees. About the 15th of May maples were in full bloom followed by wild cherry, and as the honey comes in fast we were able to extract a little by the 23rd of May. The wild raspberry has usually given some surplus during June but this year failed to do so. So that the lull lasted from May till the first week of July, when Alsike clover began to yield and the way they worked on Alsike was something wonderful for the first ten days in July. Then we had a spell of dry weather when the bees only obtained enough to keep the queens laying. Basswood came on with great promise but owing to unsuitable weather for honey secretion very little was obtained from that source. Canada thistle bloomed well but also failed to give any surplus. Buckwheat followed and the bees were very busy on it for several mornings but all the honey gathered was used in brood raising. A frost about the end of August cut off most of the fall bloom, and ended one of the poorest seasons we have known for five years. On examining the hives in September many were found without sufficient stores for winter; a few had some to spare. Those having less than twenty-five pounds were fed with granulated sugar syrup to make up to that amount. A summary of the past season is: Took twenty-four out of winter quarters, doubled back to nineteen, increased to forty-two, principally by artificial swarming, doubled back to thirty-six for wintering, and obtained twenty-five pound of comb honey and about 800 lbs. of extracted honey, nearly all from Alsike clover.

R. H. SMITH

Falkenburg, Muskoka,
November 6th, 1885.

From "Prairie Farmer."

MORE ABOUT WINTERING.

HIVES IN THE CELLAR.

J. A. S. Ill, writes:—I wrote you last winter asking directions for keeping bees in the cellar. I had good success, only for one thing, that was