

GENERAL

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Planting or Sowing for Pasturage.

QUERY No. 259 is one of interest and importance. I, myself, believe now, that it rarely pays to plant for bee-pasture alone.

I went to considerable expense and planted out 1,000 Chapman honey-plants, and as far as I could judge from so small an experiment, taking into consideration the labor and expense of cultivating, the success of the trial was not one such as would induce me to try it again. Yet it *may* pay.

ALSIKE CLOVER FOR PASTURAGE.

I should make an effort to introduce alsike clover; if there is any source of supply sure, I believe it is this. I believe I am correct in saying that its roots go to a greater depth than white, and they are less affected by drought, and it yields more largely, and, I think, better honey. If it does not yield more honey than white, why do the bees forsake the white for the alsike, when within reach? If not a surer honey-plant, why do those in alsike clover districts secure surplus in years when those in districts where only white exists do not? Again, alsike clover pays as a farm crop on a dry or clay loam, *not* on sandy soil. Take Haldimand County as an instance. In townships where the composition of the soil is clay, the farmers look upon the crop of alsike clover seed, taking one year with another, as their best paying crop. The seed, to-day, in Toronto is worth \$6.90 per bushel. I am told on excellent authority that it also gives good satisfaction as pasture; some of the farmers around here have decided to sow it with red clover and timothy for hay. Up to the present time, no one here has sown it, and I have supplied farmers in the vicinity with enough seed for twenty acres. Unless something unfortunate occurs, I expect it to do so well, that in future I will not require to supply any more seed. This plant, therefore pays in two ways.

Sweet clover, I cannot speak for, but from what I have seen of it, I should say that when once put in, it will give but little trouble, and it may pay, if sown on waste land. Few, however, are situated so favorably for waste land as the querist.

This spring has surpassed anything I have ever seen for bees. They are hanging out today on several hives.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Romney, Ont., April 25, 90.

We think as does the writer of the

above, regarding alsike. Taking all in all we should prefer it ahead of anything else, as a honey-plant, considering at the same time, the commercial value as seed. As a source of honey-flow it seldom misses, and in cases where a good big field of alsike is within easy bee-range, the apiarist need have few doubts of having surplus honey, if the bees are ready to gather in the harvest. Two years ago, we got scarcely any honey from one apiary, while another one which was near a field of alsike clover, gave a very good surplus. We have found that light sandy soil is of no use for alsike. A field of about ten acres on high ground in this vicinity was sown three years ago, but came to nothing.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Extracting Honey From Cappings.

IN the C. B. J., of March 1, Mr. Alpaugh gave your readers his method of getting the honey out of the cappings. I see only one fault with it, that is: Every bee-keeper has not got one of those sun-extractors and a great many will not buy them, notwithstanding the fact that wax extracted by that method is superior to steam-extracted, and if I am not mistaken, there is less loss in extracting by the former method. For those who have not and do not care about purchasing a sun-extractor, I give the following method which I have found very successful. I use an ordinary milk-pan for holding cappings. As this is the cheese district idle milk-pans are plenty in the honey season. When the pan is full I set an empty pan on the stove, put a couple of blocks about an inch thick in the bottom, and set in the pan with the cappings, then fill up the outside pan with water. As soon as the cappings are heated sufficiently, to melt the wax, it rises to the top. When it is all melted set the pan off to cool, when the wax will form a nice thin cake, and the honey will not be damaged any more than if it had been granulated and then melted. Care must be taken not to let the honey get over heated and scorched.

J. W. WHEALEY.

Kintore, April 4, '90.

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House Apiaries.

ARE there any house-apiarists in use in Canada? I have been wondering if there would not be worth a trial here, but I have never seen any reference to them in the