ALFALFA.

(Frank P. Adams.)

This plant is usually considered of small value to the bee-keeper here in the North; possibly because it is grown only to a limited extent in most localities, and bee-keepers have not had an opportunity to give it a fair test for its honey yielding qualities, but really, if some of my bee-keeping friends could have seen the way that the bees worked on it this spring, and the immense loads of honey they secured from it, they would have been convinced that its value to them had been greatly under-rated.

It is true that Alfalfa does not yield honey every year. Weather conditions must be favorable for the secretion of nectar, but there are times when it yields well, while alsike and white clovers are yielding practically nothing.

A heavy shower does not seem to affect it like it does the other clovers. Providing the weather comes out hot after a rain the bees literally swarm over the alfalfa fields, while the other clovers are practically deserted for a day at least, or until the honey again forms in the blossoms. In this respect it resembles the sweet or Bokhara clover. Given plenty of moisture and a hot, close atmosphere, the flow is very rapid, and while it takes the alsike and white clovers from 12 to 24 hours to recover from the effects of a rainstorm, alfalfa will yield as soon as the bees can get out of their hives to gather the honey. This quality of the plant is of great value in seasons like the one just past. The yield is never good from alsike and white clovers when showers are too frequent, but it is surprising how much the bees will pick up from alfalfa under just such conditions. The bloom comes on it a few days before the other clovers are out and bees must be strong enough to go into the supers early in order to secure a surplus from the first crop.

The second crop is just now coming into bloom (August 1st) but this weather has been dry while it was getting its growth, and the plants do not look thrifty. As a consequence it is not likely that there will be much honey in it. In previous years the second bloom has yielded considerable honey, but it will not do so this year.

"Bow Park," Ont.

The average in this district will be about 25 to 35 lbs. per colony and unless the fall is favorable much feeding will have to be done, as there is little below the supers.

H. G. SIBBALD.

Peel Co., July 28, '06.

The season here so far has been very good, especially in districts where there is little cultivation. However, in districts where large areas of wheat are cultivated I am informed that in some places the bee-keepers have been obliged to feed swarms until lately. I shall be pleased to report to you later on.

THOMAS GELLEY,
Secretary Manitoba B. K. A.

Some bee-keepers have thought that wasps were subject to foul brood, and have argued that there was little hope of getting rid of the pest so long as wasps' nest were allowed to harbor it. M. Lichtenthaler relates, in the Rheinische Bienenzeitung, that during the past year he received two wasps' nests which really appeared to have the disease. There was the characteristic odor, rotten brood, and all the other signs of foul brood. He sent these two nests to the Biological Institute at Berlin, where the foul-brood question had been thoroughly studied. After careful examination it is stated that there was no foul brood in the two wasps' nests; the microscopical examination and the cultures did not show the presence of the disease germs, either in the bacillus or spore condition. This will dispose of the idea that wasps can infect hives or that they are subject to the disease.—Bee-Keepers' Record.