

But you say extracted honey as an article of food is of equal value with comb, therefore the price should be equal. I grant your premise, but not your conclusion. If you are correct, then I might say that cotton goods make better overalls than silk, therefore the cotton goods should be higher in price. The fact is, the two kinds of honey are to some extent independent of each other. If people find, in general, that extracted honey is not equal in quality to comb honey, the demand will be less. Then the appearance of comb honey on the table gives it a greater value in the eyes of many.

Now, please do not throw so much blame on those who have sold extracted honey at low prices. It costs more to produce comb honey than the extracted, and so long as that is the case, I think we will always find the price for comb honey higher.

C. C. MILLER.

From the British Bee Journal.

PLANTING FOR BEES.

THE question has often been asked, "Does it pay?" Well, it will and it will not, as the saying is. Before the apiarist spends any money in this direction, he should very seriously consider his own peculiar situation. The possibility is that if his district really will not support his apiary, it will pay him better to move his apiary to where it will have a chance of giving satisfactory results.

But, on the other hand, a district can often be greatly improved over a term of years by the expenditure of a little time at a slight yearly cost, especially if there happen to be much waste land in the vicinity. Meadows can be improved by scattering a little white clover seed as opportunity offers. Neighboring farmers may be induced to grow alsike in the place of, or mixed with, red clover, especially if the bee-keeper is prepared to pay the cost of a portion of the same. Odd corners or rough land can generally be utilised by sowing mellilot clover, particularly if it happen to be along lanes, by the roadside, or where deep cart ruts are made over ground not actually in use. Clover is very partial to road-grit, and we have known a very heavy growth of white clover come where the grass-land had been dressed with this material, and at no cost whatever for seed.

According to present experience, we should say it does not pay to cultivate land for bees year by year, but where it can be had at a very cheap rate, and a crop is put in (carefully in the first instance), that will afterwards take care of itself, such as mellilot; then, without doubt it will pay well.

Small garden crops of course are simply valueless to the large apiarian for honey, but it is a pleasure to many to make a collection of such plants as bees appear to like, giving a small space to each variety, and we have no other wish than to encourage this commendable hobby.

It must not for a moment be supposed, however, that these patches will offer any real test for arriving at the most desirable plants to be cultivated for the production of honey on a large scale. The very plants the bees appear most fond of are too often such as it would be utterly impossible to cultivate on a large scale, while the patch that now is neglected as a miniature crop, if grown by the acre, would be visited by tens of thousands, while the winged workers would simply 'roar' as they pass to and fro from the apiary in one continual stream.

We have then to look to what will produce honey on a large scale at the least cost in rent and labor when the desirable plant has no other use; and the land so occupied has no higher value; while those who have the means of growing crops for hay can certainly make it to their own advantage to accommodate the bees at the same time, and thus secure the best results in a double harvest. In the case of crops left for seed, there can be no question as to the great benefit and more certain profit to be secured from the flowers being freely visited by the hive bee, and so ensuring the fullest possible fertilization of the bloom, and consequently heavy crops of fully developed seed. On the other hand, when wanted for hay of the highest quality, it must be a consideration whether it will pay better to let the crop stand a few days longer for the benefit of the honey crop or be cut immediately the earlier bloom begins to fade. This is a rather a delicate question, but one we should not hesitate to decide upon in favor of the bees on the one condition that the best of weather prevailed, and they were making such good use of the time as is well known they can do as occasion offers.

We have considered the question of "planting" in so far as it relates to honey, but while a large crop only is of use for that purpose, the quantity of pollen that is obtained from a small bed of certain plants is something considerable. Nevertheless we question if many bee-keepers really have any need to grow for this purpose, seeing how freely this article is generally brought in. Wallflowers yield pollen early in considerable quantity. Crocuses we cannot recommend after an extensive experience, and we mention the fact as so many have thought highly of them. They come early, and that is nearly all we can say for them, as we have watched bee after bee