

THE FLORA OF MANITOBA.

EVER since the birth of the C. B. J., I have been going to write to it. I wanted to tell you something about the country and how we do things out here, which, I have no doubt, would be most instructive. This "write" feeling kept on growing (and everything grows very rapidly here) until it threw out several branches, leaving several things to write to you about.

But I do recollect, now, writing "Can Bees Star?" This was done merely to settle for all time the fact that they could. But imagine my surprise to see the matter referred to again a short time ago!

We have a big bee country (I will scarcely go to the trouble to tell you how big) but we lose about as much nectar every year as is gathered in the rest of North America. You will probably think we could scarcely stand this great loss year after year, still, although poorer by a few thousands, we are fairly prosperous.

The flora of the country is composed of very many varieties. The first comes in the shape of the prairie crocus, before the snow is fairly off. The next noticeable and most important spring bloom is the willow. The various kinds of willow extend their bloom over several weeks, yielding both pollen and honey. Other blooms follow in quick succession and increase as the season advances.

It is a treat, I assure you, to see acre after acre and mile after mile of bloom-laden prairie decked out after Nature's own fashion when she chooses to throw on a little. One of the rarest sights I ever saw was on a gentle elevation of the prairie with a poplar bluff as a background. At irregular intervals were scattered shrubs of different kinds, singly and in groups. Half-a-dozen varieties of wild peas and vetches with their pure white, purple and vari-colored bloom, ingratiated themselves with the branches as if to get a better view of passers-by. A hundred varieties of flowers of every imaginable color and style filled the place with an uneven and careless prodigality. The dark green verdure, the pure white and the deep purple and rich orange bloom and flowerlets of the most delicate shades and tints, all seemed to vie with each other to outshine in beauty, while in restlessness and ecstasy to every passing perfume-laden breeze they nodded and bowed, redolent in their rich splendor, which—which—pshaw! it was just simply—gorgeous.

C. F. BRIDGMAN.

Fernton, Manitoba.

When the "write" feeling comes over you again, Friend Bridgman, which we trust will be "write soon," will you tell us the flavors of the honeys you secure? Your flora is so different from that of Ontario. And what system of spring management do you pursue in "the great lone land?"

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

EXPERTS' DIPLOMAS.

STUDENT—I intend going to the States in the spring, and would like a situation in an apiary. Would a diploma from the International Association help me to better wages, if so can you tell me where an examination is to be held?

We have not heard that anything has been done in the matter beyond appointing a committee.

There are but two ways or methods which I can recommend to prevent swarming. The cause of swarming is traced to the change of the queen. My first method is to supersede all queens that have been laying one season, about the 20th of May, with a young queen. The second and only sure method is to secure a new race of bees that never reproduce themselves, but grow, on the Darwinian plan, perhaps, from some other source. The latter is a conundrum never solved. If this last method does not satisfy the bee-keepers, then swarming must go on as it has for ages past, or as long as the honey bee lives in colonies.—[H. B. ISHAM in *American Cultivator*.

JACOB BULL.—Last spring I commenced the season with 13 colonies, some of which were very weak. I took about 30 lbs. of comb honey and had 13 new swarms, one of which preferred to take its chances in the woods to remaining with me. 2 others I doubled up. So I have now 23 colonies in snug quarters in my cellar. They are exceedingly quiet and are I think doing well. I leave the whole of the entrance open, and although the cellar is not perfectly dark very few bees come out and those I think only old ones. I am of the opinion that most of my neighbors will retire from the bee business in the spring, as last year was so very unfavorable and their colonies are weak. My bees are principally a cross between Blacks and Italians, and are great swarmers and sometimes very cross. I shall introduce more Italian blood next summer.

Weston, Ont., Jan. 14th.

ROOT'S A.B.C.—NEW EDITION.

We have on order to arrive by express another lot of the "A B C of Bee Culture" by Friend Root. This, too, has just been re-issued—the 37th thousand—and much new and interesting matter has been added. We sell more "A B C" than any other; it seems to be so arranged that it is really an A B C for the beginner. The name, too, helps the sale—novices expect to find in it just what they, as beginners, most need.