

Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.

JULY 25TH TO 29TH, 1892.

	1st.	2nd	3rd.
1 Colony of bees, pure strain	5	3	2
2 Honey in Comb, 10 lbs., product of 1892.....	5	3	2
3 Honey extracted, 10 lbs., product of 1892.....	5	3	2
4 Honey, vinegar, not less than half-gallon.....	4	2	1
5 Beeswax, 5lbs.	3	2	1

Above we give particulars of prizes offered by the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition for honey and apianian supplies. We are sorry the list is not larger, and that more specials are not offered in this line. We think that the promoters of this Fair would be considering their own interests by offering more liberal inducements to exhibitors in this line. Let them take pattern from our Industrial. There is no reason why the inhabitants of our great North-West in the near future should not be noted among the principal bee-keepers of Canada.

Punic (Or Tunisian) Bees.

FRANK BENTON GIVES HIS OPINION OF THEM AFTER TRYING THEM.

ENCLOSED you will find a clipping from the "American Farmer," Washington, D. C. Evidently, such well-known authority as Frank Benton knows what he is talking about; and the sooner bee-keepers in general know the facts of the case the better it will be for them.

Rochester, O., May 19th. M. W. SHEPHERD.

Many bee-keepers will want to buy queens of some one of the better races this spring to improve their stock. At the present time the choice lies practically between the Italians and Carniolans. The former have been known for over 30 years in this country, and are very generally recognized as superior to the common brown bees. The Carniolans have grown in favor very rapidly since their introduction, less than 10 years ago, largely on account of their uniting, to the same general good qualities of the Italians, far greater gentleness, enabling timid bee-keepers, ladies, and young people to manage an apiary with much greater safety and pleasure than formerly; also, they winter the best of any race, and their combs rival in whiteness those built by any other race.

Another race of bees has recently been advertised under the name of "Punic" bees, the queens having been offered at from \$1.50 to \$50 each. The former price is for unfertilized queens; \$5 is asked for fertilized queens, \$10 if purely mated; \$40 if selected, and \$50 for such as are said to have been imported from the native land of this wonderful new race, which, according to the claims of the advertiser, unites all the virtues that one could possibly imagine as belonging to bees, with none of their faults. As the writer

happens to have been the first to call general attention to this race of bees, under the far more appropriate name of Tunisian bees (Tunis being the native land of the race), and as he has had considerable experience with them in Tunis, and also in several other countries, he may be allowed to express an opinion as to their merits and demerits. The former are soon told, for the Tunisians (or Punicas) are industrious and prolific, somewhat more so than any race of bees coming from Europe, but rather less so than the eastern Mediterranean races (Cyprians, Syrians, and Palestines). But their faults make a list! They are small and very black; are spiteful stingers, as vindictive as the worst race known; bite in addition to stinging; are great propolizers, daubing hives, sections, and combs lavishly with "bee glue;" they swarm as much as do Carniolans, and winter as poorly as do Palestines. Most people will think the genuine imported queens are a trifle extravagant at \$50 each, especially those who remember that, in 1885 and 1886, just such queens were offered at from \$4 to \$10 each, direct from Tunis northern Africa. Millionaires who keep bees will, of course, buy "Punic" queens at \$50 each for all of their hives, although they wouldn't look at Tunisians a few years since at \$4 and \$10. But the rest of us will plod on with bees whose queens cost us from \$1 to \$5 each, and that are chiefly noted for giving us honey, money, and pleasure in handling them.

FRANK BENTON.

—Gleanings.

Sources of Honey, etc.

WHILE it is true that all nature may be aglow with myriads of beautiful flowers and yet bees not be able to gather one drop of nectar, it is evident that there can be no honey without them. Many plants that are valuable for honey in some localities are not in others, owing to climatic differences, and every bee-keeper should become acquainted with the sources of honey within flight of his bees. The sources of honey differ much in the same place. During the hot, dry season, honey may be gathered from different flowers than it would be in a wet one.

PLANTING FOR HONEY.

Many experiments have been made by bee-culturists to solve the problem as to whether it pays to raise a crop for honey alone, and the verdict has been that it will not. During an occasional season it might, and then again the product from seed, labor, and land will be nothing. Prof. Cook, of Michigan Agricultural College, experimented with Rocky Mountain bee plant, *cleome integrifolia*, and demonstrated that it did not pay to raise it for honey alone, and it was worthless for anything else. While it may not pay to plant for honey alone, the sources of honey may be greatly improved by well directed efforts.