

Notes by the Way

By G. A. DEADMAN.

ALSIKE CLOVER FOR HONEY AND FOR SEED.

I wish for the sake of your readers, Mr. Editor, that I knew more about alsike clover as a honey plant and also how to grow it for seed. If after reading these notes any of your readers decide upon growing some they can no doubt get all the information they may need from the manager of some of our experimental farms or from editors of the many papers on agriculture. It is a little strange to me that more thought has not been given to alsike clover, by the bee-keepers of this or other lands. We find frequent mention of alfalfa (which many fear will too soon be of little use to bee-keepers, simply because the growers thereof are becoming wiser in their generation and are cutting it much earlier than formerly) but no mention of alsike. As a honey plant it certainly takes a prominent place, usually secreting a good supply of nectar which our pets can easily reach. I say "usually" because in this locality at least one season they did not. I could not understand it. The weather seemed favorable and never so many blossoms, and a field within a quarter of a mile of the home apiary yet not a bee could be found there. The perfume wafted on the breezes from this field was very fragrant and we could smell it for a long distance when on the windward side. Not sufficient alsike is grown in this neighborhood, however, so I cannot speak much from seeing it, but only from passing

through some places where much of it is grown. I visited a bee-keeper, Mr. Joseph Marks, northeast of Toronto, last year. Mr. Marks manages the bees and his son looks after the farm. I was from the latter that my eyes were opened to the great profit on alsike when grown for seed, apart from its value as a honey plant. In the year 1900 he grew some thirty acres and made \$900 out of the seed alone. Last year he had at that time 35 acres in his barn and he expected to make some \$1200 out of it besides the hay. The latter is not worth as much as if cut earlier but certainly is as good as straw. I was not surprised when told that he quickly paid off the mortgage—good land could be bought and paid for in one season from alsike seed alone. It seemed to me that there is more money in it than in bees, and the beauty of it is when a bee-keeper grows it he has a decided advantage over those who have no bees—for the bees help the alsike and the alsike helps the bees. Four bushels to the acre I am told is a fair yield but where bees are plentiful five bushels is nearer it. There is another thing I cannot understand—how or why it is that the demand is so great and the price so high for this seed. I have been told that considerable is exported to England. There is one pleasing feature about it, which is, that those who grow it are not slow to see the value of being in securing a good crop of seed. My friend some five miles distant was about to sow it for seed and I was quite encouraged the other day by him saying, "I wish you would bring out some of your bees to my place. In these days of lawsuits and engagements and threatenings it is quite refreshing to have people talk about this fashion. There is one thing observed, that bee-keepers near the

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