

## CANADIAN BEE-KEEPERS

## Their Methods and Successes.

## No. 1

The editor in arranging for a series of articles on the leading bee-keepers of Canada is desirous of conveying to his readers an idea of the various modes of bee culture practised in different parts of the Dominion. To those whose circumstances do not furnish them with the opportunities for gaining the knowledge that a man of extended experience obtains, these articles, we believe, will prove helpful. The bee-keepers who will be the subject of the following series will help the cause of Canadian bee-keeping by detailing for the benefit of the readers of the C. B. J. the means by which they personally have achieved success in their apian undertakings. We suppose that nearly every bee-keeper has worked out some pet theory or idea; has invented some appliance or other, or is in exclusive possession of the knowledge of some good dodge or wrinkle. The columns of the C. B. J. will furnish a medium whereby these good things may be made known to bee-keepers in general.

## WILLIAM McEVOY.

William McEvoy scarcely needs introduction to our readers. He has been called the "Father of Canadian Bee-keeping." As the official "friend, philosopher and guide" of Ontario bee-keepers he may be said to have influenced their destinies for the past twenty years. Our ranks, however, are fast increasing, and to many of the younger generation, the subject of this sketch is but a name.

The frequency with which a man ventures before the public as a writer, is no criterion of his success as a bee-keeper, and unlike many other prominent bee-men, McEvoy is no journalist. A master of his craft, he holds to clearly defined opinions. What he has to say he states

without circumlocution. His few articles on bee-keeping have nearly all appeared in the C. B. J., and our readers will remember his eminently useful papers that appeared a year or two back. McEvoy never writes unless he considers that what he has to say will be of real benefit to his fellows. Thus it is that his influence so far has been of a purely personal nature affecting only those with whom he has come into direct contact. There are many first-class bee-keepers in Canada to-day ready to admit their indebtedness to "Mac" as they affectionately call him. In fact, several have confessed to us that nearly all they know about bee-keeping, worth knowing, they learned from McEvoy.

It was right in the middle of the clover flow that we journeyed to our friend's home in Woodburn. The time, possibly, was not the most convenient one for our host, and we felt somewhat guilty in intruding at such a period. His welcome, however, was unmistakeably sincere, his warm-hearted hospitality and merry nature shining out through his eyes as he led us across the threshold. We found ourselves in the midst of a circle of bee-keepers. In our mind, the Woodburn apiaries will long be associated with the vision of a happy, united and peaceful family. So far as we are aware, we are not subject to any ultra-aesthetic tendencies, but we must admit that the scene affected us very much.

The worthy father of three worthy sons—all expert bee-keepers—William McEvoy ought to be a happy man. And the two charming ladies of the house, Mrs. and Miss McEvoy—these also engage in the lighter operations connected with the taking of honey. The whole family appeared to possess the spirit of the hive itself.

Before we proceed further we will give a very brief account of McEvoy. The short time we were able to spend at

Woodburn, together with reluctance to speak much prevented our obtaining of him as we could have. William was born 66 years ago in Halton. When a mere lad in bees a source of great interest to him he loved to watch them out of the old fashioned neighbors. This was before the moveable-comb hive was formed a resolution in his mind to become a bee-keeper. He was just passing out of his teens when he came the possessor of two hives but by the time he was twenty had increased to some seven hives. He had become a bee-keeper at the works of Langstroth and at this early age was widely known as an expert bee-keeper. We found him going around the country examining for his clients such colonies as were transferring colonies from the old frame hives. His then new frame hives. His days appeared to his neighbors short of the marvellous. In the same period he manufactured frame hives, for which there was an increasing demand.

McEvoy, in common with all bee-keepers, sustained serious losses as the result of "foul brood." He was perplexed as to the cause and was unable to discover all he could of the disease. We have not space to detail the interesting experiments he will merely mention that he discovered the famous disease goes by his name, when it is beyond doubt that the disease conveyed in the honey obtained from the disease-smitten areas of colonies is contrary to the results of experiments made by the English scientists, Cheshire and Clifton. At that time we were generally accepted as being correct in our conclusions. When further exper-