

## CANADIAN BEE-KEEPERS

(No. 1, continued from July)

Only those who have been with Mr. McEvoy at extracting time are able to gauge his success as a bee-keeper. We were visiting the other day a bee-keeper of long experience, whose yield per hive, though his yard was located in what is perhaps the finest bee district in Canada, was only a fraction of that obtained by McEvoy. Great tracts of alsike; bush growing bass in quantity, wide stretches of lucerne that at the present moment are richly purple, contribute to the harvest of this bee-keeper. The Woodburn apiaries on the other hand are situated in the very centre of a village, and in a neighborhood that could only be classed as fair from the point of view of the bee-man. The fact is that McEvoy's methods of dealing with bees are what a horticulturist would call "intensive." We have worked side by side with some of the most skilled maraichers of Paris, and can appreciate the knowledge applied and the care exercised by our Woodburn apiarist in the sister industry. Each small portion of the season has its own peculiar operation and delay means dislocation in the cycle of the bee-year. To extract the maximum amount of wealth from Nature's storehouse by means of his craft, requires in addition to skill and knowledge the application of loving labor and that without regard to commercial economy.

Mr. McEvoy's chief object—in fact his sole aim right from the time when the main honey flow has ceased—is to get all his stocks at their greatest strength for the beginning of the next clover flow. Various means are employed to accomplish this end. The chief are the yearly re-queening of every stock, proper and timely preparations for wintering, and spring feeding. The bulk of his queens are of his own raising, and in breeding them, he is careful that only large and well fed larvae

shall arrive at maturity. The gentleness of his bees testifies to the care exercised in the selection of the queen-mothers—and shall we also say, king-fathers—for he tolerates drones only in those colonies possessing characteristics desirable for perpetuation. This wholesale re-queening takes place as soon after the honey flow as possible, and finishes before the late feeding commences. It will be seen hereafter, when we describe the forcing process the queens have to undergo, how necessary it is that they should not be retained longer than one season. One of his methods of raising queens may be mentioned and commended on account of its simplicity. Briefly it is as follows. The queen of each hive having been destroyed, after eight days a selection of the consequent queen cells is made, those in colonies that have proved themselves during the past season at all unworthy being entirely discarded. The other colonies are permitted to retain one good queen-cell each, and those hives in which all the queen cells were destroyed are given a spare cell. For wintering, Mr. McEvoy endeavors to arrange matters so that absolute quiet and rest shall prevail all through the off season. He does not desire brood rearing to take place during the winter, and he effectually prevents this by feeding the bees so that they fill and cap practically every cell in the combs before the end of September. This rapid feeding is effected by means of a modification of the Miller type of feeder, and in two instalments. The first lot of syrup is put on the hives while the queens are yet laying, and the feeding is completed only when every cell of the brood nest is filled with honey. In spite of these precautions, there will sometimes be stocks that in the very depth of winter, evince symptoms of restlessness. Such stocks will have more air given them. All McEvoy's hives are wintered upon their summer stands. They possess covers that

permit of the hives to be thoroughly packed with straw. We mention that the hives are moved, thus keeping them cool in summer as well as in winter.

The foregoing procedure is altogether orthodox and must be conceded to be eminently successful. Beekeepers who have attempted to be entire-

ly successful in their beekeeping. Now we approach the question of giving rise to some of the columns of this Journal. We refer to spring feeding. Perhaps we may be permitted to give our experience in rearing bees, especially as we have seen Mr. McEvoy's co-incident success is generally admitted to proceed at the same rate as the amount of available food. The word "available" as used here, although there may be sealed stores in a hive, they generally do not use such stores in case of stoppage of the supply, but rather will use the stores and rear brood. In view of the bee, so devoted to first joyous early flowers—a plentiful, of promise, abundance. The trees and orchards from barren regions of sweets on the delusion. But the period of fruit bloom is so short of famine. The tiny bees cannot enable it to overcome the meaning of what is winter. The accumulation of centuries has not yet learned to guard against the uncertainty that characterize the spring rains, therefore, to provide that which nature