

this written you giving the experience of one gentleman in Manitoba who was remarkably successful and I wondered if there were more who had been equally so. I will now, without further comment, proceed to give you the experience of two gentlemen in high standing in Manitoba who have both had several years experience in beekeeping there.

The first is Mr. S. A. Bedford, superintendent of the experimental farm at Brandon, whom I had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with in reference to our industry, and the second is Mr. Wm. Goodridge. Mr. Bedford has been in the province for 20 years, being one of the early one of the early settlers, and has been in charge at the farm for six years. He was furnished by the Dominion Government with several colonies of bees for the purpose of experimenting and finding out whether bees could be handled successfully in that province or not.

Mr. Bedford previous to this had an experience with bees other than what may have been received by him through watching others handle them but notwithstanding this fact he took hold with interest and soon became an enthusiastic beekeeper. His duties as superintendent, however, prevent him from keeping a large number of colonies but with those he had he conducted some interesting experiments in wintering; having tried both inside and outdoor wintering and the final result has made him with others strong advocates of cellar wintering for Manitoba; The first four or five winters he wintered in the cellar without the loss of a colony and then he decided to try outdoor for one winter which he did, packing his whole stock, consisting of 10 hives, with chaff and sawdust. The one-half he packed with sawdust, putting about two feet of packing all around each hive, and the other five he packed in like manner with chaff and the following spring every colony was dead. Mr. Bedford uses the Jones single walled hive and has also tried the Heddon hive, but thinks he has not skill enough to use it and though I have never tried it I judge from what I have heard there are a good many more in the same box.

Mr. Bedford thinks the average yield per colony in his locality would be nearly 50 pounds.

The willows, of which there are a half dozen varieties, seem to attract the bees first in the spring and immediately following them about the 20th of May come the wild flowers in all their abundance and varied hues, which last till the first of September. Of these a great number seem to yield little if any nectar, the best

yielders being the flat-head golden rod for the fall and the queen of the meadows in the middle of the season. This is a tall plant somewhat resembling the golden rod in build being very tall and bushy on top with a pale red flower which yields well. The plant is well-known in Ontario. There is also in the fore part of the season the wild fruit, such as the currants, raspberries and saskatoon. Buckwheat and sweet clover are good growers, the latter standing the winter well and the white or Dutch clover which is so plentiful throughout Ontario, is becoming acclimatized. There is very little basswood at Brandon, but from Portage la Prairie east to the Red River there seems to be quite a quantity. There are no Canada thistles about Brandon for which Mr. Bedford, strange to say, is not sorry.

Mr. Goodridge came out from England 23 years ago and, like Mr. Bedford had no experience with bees till he bought a couple of colonies of Italian bees in Langstroth single-walled hives in the spring of 1890. These he successfully winters in his cellar. Last spring (1894) Mr. Goodridge had nine colonies, from which he took 600 lbs. of extracted honey and 50 lbs. of comb, and also had 18 swarms. The bees, as the above will indicate, are very much given to swarming.

Mr. Goodridge gets his honey principally from the wild flowers, white and alsike clover and (he is sorry to say) the thistles. The honey is principally of a light amber color and is of excellent quality, selling for 15c. per lb. extracted and 20c. for comb.

Mr. Goodridge does not think the winters are at all hard on the bees as he had not lost a colony, the previous winter every hive coming out with lots of honey and in good health.

Now, as far as I can see, those of us who have come to the conclusion sometime ago that the West is no place for bees, if we will just take the trouble to inquire into the matter a little we will be obliged to change our views considerably.

CANADIAN RAMBLER.

### Have Pity, Gentle Reader.

We have on our books the names of a large number of people who are indebted to us in sums ranging from one to several dollars for subscriptions and job work. We are in urgent need of funds and must ask all to call and settle at an early date. No business man has a harder battle to fight at a time when money is "tight" than the