

The War Against Insects

It is estimated that from 10 to 25 per cent of all crops grown in Canada is lost by the ravages of insects and that the annual loss in value reaches the enormous total of over one hundred million dollars. The crusade against this devastation, which is carried on by officers of the Dominion Entomological Branch at Ottawa and in the various provinces, is thus of a herculean character. As circumstances warrant it, whole districts are brought under quarantine to prevent the pests in particular localities being shipped out on products upon which they prey.

Trenches miles in length have been dug to trap the horribly destructive army worm; aeroplanes have been used to survey areas infected with the spruce budworm; poison gas has been experimented with to kill grasshoppers; parasites of different species are bred and used as auxiliaries in this gigantic warfare, and drugged baits are distributed at various strategic points where it is expected their use will be most effective.

In no division of the work has greater activity and vigor been displayed than in fighting the vicious corn-borer. Cities have practically been placed in a state of siege, men being stationed with rights of search to enforce regulations, and see that no transportation of corn contrary thereto takes place.

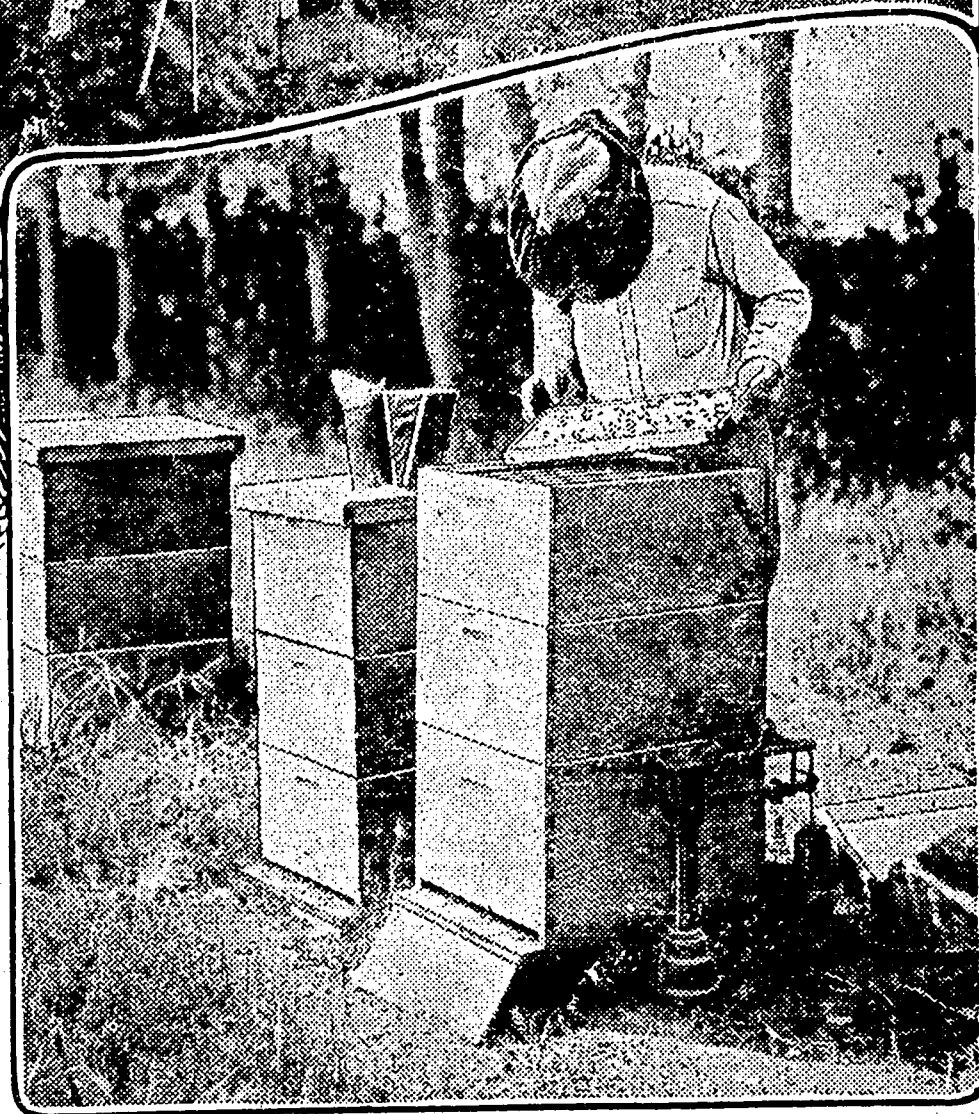
All of this work has resulted in saving crops worth millions of dollars, and citizens generally appreciate the work done by the Dominion Entomologist and his officers.

Southern Alberta is Beekeeper's Paradise



Upper—Examining the bees in George Riedel's Apiary in the Coaldale district.

Lower—A colony of Bees in the Riedel Apiary.



Southern Alberta's irrigated districts, with their large fields of alfalfa and sweet clover, promise to become the beekeeper's paradise within the next five years.

Two years ago, less than 10,000 pounds of honey were produced in Alberta. Last year, 60,000 pounds were produced—and 32 carloads imported into the West to supply the demand. This year, on the C.P.R. irrigated project at Lethbridge, there will be produced more than 100,000 pounds. And this is just a start.

"Southern Alberta's irrigated districts will be shipping trainloads—not carloads—of honey to the markets within five years" declared Frank C. Pellatt, field editor of the American Bee Journal, Hamilton, Illinois, on the occasion of his visit to Southern Alberta late in July this year. "This is the greatest potential honey producing district in North America."

Today, one apiarist in the Coaldale district on the C.P.R. irrigated project has 600 colonies of bees. This man, C. George Riedel, came to Southern Alberta from California in the spring of 1924 and started with 300 colonies. In 1926 he will have

1800 colonies and will make more than 150 tons of honey. This year his bees will make him about 50 tons, and one wholesale firm having branches throughout the West is handling the whole output.

Each colony of bees makes about 200 pounds in a season, though one colony at the Lethbridge Experi-

mental Farm broke all records for Canada by making 472 pounds in the season of 1923. A record of 21 pounds in one day by one colony was made in 1923 when the bees at the Experimental Farm averages 189 pounds for the season, the high record for the year at the experimental farms across Canada.