

REPORT OF HONEY-CROP BY DISTRICTS—*Concluded.*

District.	Bee-keepers on list.	Bee-keepers reporting.	Hives reported.	Crop reported.	Average per Hive.
				lb.	lb.
<i>Brought forward</i> . . . . .	481	111	747	25,211	...
South Vancouver . . . . .	67	20	273	5,173	18
Sumas . . . . .	42	10	50	2,005	36
Surrey . . . . .	62	17	154	3,172	20
Vancouver . . . . .	61	22	114	3,344	29
Comox . . . . .	20	6	12	240	20
Duncan . . . . .	12	4	20	307	15
Gulf Islands . . . . .	22	6	36	610	15
Nanaimo . . . . .	48	5	42	700	18
Victoria . . . . .	56	13	60	1,434	14
Okanagan Lake . . . . .	113	36	328	6,761	20
Thompson River . . . . .	39	11	128	4,347	33
Arrow Lakes . . . . .	28	17	100	331	3
Kootenay Lake . . . . .	104	48	200	3,400	11
<b>Totals</b> . . . . .	<b>1,160</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>57,245</b>	<b>23</b>

The oldest bee-keepers in the Province are unanimous in stating that the season of 1915 yielded the poorest honey-crop in their experience. Our oldest bee-keeper, the most successful in the Lower Fraser District, has kept bees for thirty years, and he considers his crop as being only one-third of an average, and as being the poorest in his time.

We all know how unreasonable the weather was during the spring and summer months, and so must attribute the poor crop to weather conditions. Reports in the Bee Journals indicate that the unfavourable conditions were prevalent all over the North American Continent, and that the honey-crop as a whole was much under the average.

The warm weather of April had a most extraordinary result in the bush country in Matsqui, where soft maples abound. On April 15th the writer found an average of 75 lb. a colony of delicious maple honey, all sealed in the supers, a record worthy of note, and clearly indicating the importance of strong colonies early in spring.

The most noticeable feature of the reports from the Inspector's point of view was the fact that nearly everybody had at least a little honey, a marked contrast to previous years, when a very large percentage had no crop at all. Undoubtedly our bee-keepers are becoming more skilled in their calling, and in an average season will probably surprise themselves with their success.

As nectar was scant, comb-building was practically an impossibility. The best crops consequently were got by those who had plenty of spare combs. In British Columbia we need at least thirty combs to the colony, ten to winter on, ten to increase the dimension of the brood-chamber on May 1st, and ten for the start of the honey-crop. No bee-keeper will ever have too many spare combs, and it is such seasons as 1915 that demonstrate their value. In many instances, practically the whole honey-crop was stored in one day. Where extracting combs were ready and colonies were strong, as much as 30 lb. per colony were stored in twelve hours; bee-keepers without combs got nothing.

One bee-keeper in the Wet Belt, who reported an average of 60 lb. to the colony, says that a double-walled hive with an air-space between the walls gave, as in former years, a yield just double that of the average of the other colonies. Evidently the greatest need of our bee-keepers is not to keep more bees, but to keep their present colonies better.

The writer wishes to state that, while in British Columbia we can point to very few expert bee-keepers, he considers that our average bee-keeper will compare very favourably with an equal number in any other part of the world, and that from now on honey production in the Province will progress at a very rapid pace.