

Agriculture and Colonization.

British Columbia.—An experienced bee-keeper writes, page 500, *Canadian Bee Journal*: There are many keeping bees, but only a few who understand it. Chilliwack, Vancouver, and many other points. I consider I can average, one season with another, about 80 pounds of extracted honey per colony, spring count, besides increase. I took 270 pounds from one colony. Many, during such a season as last, secured in Ontario, practically nothing.

SEASONS OF LARGE YIELDS.

The late Mrs. H. Stennett, St. Marys—From 50 colonies an average of 225 pounds per colony or 11,250 pounds.

S. T. Pettit, Belmont—From 69 colonies 12,000 pounds honey in one year, and he has sold several years \$1,200 worth of honey alone.

Last year, R. A. Marrison, Inverary, secured from 94 colonies with no thistle honey, only a little basswood, and a fair yield of clover, 7,400 pounds honey, 65 pounds wax, and increased to 146.

W. G. Russell, Milbrook, 9,000 pounds from 80 colonies, 1894; 1895, 4,200 pounds from 80 colonies.

Bayne J. McKellar, although clover and basswood were frozen, secured a little over 100 pounds of comb honey per colony.

A. E. Trussle, Trout Creek, last year began with three colonies, increased to twelve; 500 pounds choice honey.

John Sirr, of Hurdville, increased from one to three under same conditions, and took 58 pounds comb honey.

The above information I think will be of use to those thinking of bee-keeping.

MARKETS.

Honey is understood but little by the general public. To spread the fact that extracted honey is sold for less money than comb, not because it is adulterated, but owing to the fact that in the former case the comb is used over and over again, saving the bees much work, and more extracted honey can be secured per colony. That honey absorbs moisture readily, and both comb and extracted honey should be kept in a dry atmosphere, that honey granulates, or as it is commonly called by the uninitiated, "sugars," that this is an indication of purity rather than adulteration, and that it can be brought back to the liquid state by gently heating. Such information and pointing out that at present prices it is an economic food, and proper methods of marketing would develop our home market tenfold.

When it comes to foreign markets, although, from the last statistics, Europe produces annually 35,000,000 pounds of wax and 180,000,000 pounds of honey, valued at \$19,000,000, that continent not only consumes its own, but imports. The honey imports to Great Britain for June last, a month during which not much honey is sold, is given as £5,550. At 7 cents, the price we get, it would be almost 3,500,000 pounds.

Australia cannot compete with us in quality. Although the Government gives a bonus of 2 cents for every pound of honey exported, that country cannot produce a good quality. *British Bee Journal*, March 12th, 1896, says: "Australia honey sells badly in London," and gives an instance by the gross price realized, one penny three farthings per pound, and the net sum yielded to the producer, under one-half penny per pound.

HOW TO BEGIN.

After studying a good practical work on bee-keeping and taking one or more papers giving information on the subject, the beginner should purchase two to four first class colonies of bees. The best time to move them to their new location, and the best time of the year for the beginner is, in this part and most parts of Canada, the latter part of May. There may be other hives just as good, but the light frame Langstroth hive is very largely used; probably 80 per cent in America are in