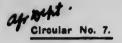
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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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Honey Production in British Columbia

BY F. DUNDAS TODD, FOUL-BROOD INSPECTOR.



N the month of October, 1914, there were listed on the records of the Depurtment of Agriculture the names of 966 bee-keepers in the Province, and it is estimated that there are probably about 200 more with whom the Ber Iuspeciors have fulled to get into touch. From all known bee-keepers there was requested a honey-crop report for the years 1913 and 1014, and 385 kindly responded. Briefly stated,

we get the following results :---

	Colonies	Crop in	Average
	in April.	Pounds,	per Hive.
1013	1,191	37,782	81.7
1914	2,137	117,275	54.8

If we assume that those reporting are fairly representative bee-keepers, then a little calculation will show that the total honey-crop of the Province in 1913 was probably about 50 tons, and in 1914 from 170 to 200 tons,

Four years ago there was fairly unanhous agreement among the bee-kreepers visited by the luspectors that British Columbia was a rather poor bee country. Let us take the reports and learn what light they throw on the subject.

First, let it be said that a country is considered a good one for bees when a skilled bee-keeper can depend upon a crop of 50 ib. a hive, one year with mother. The year 1913 was considered by many to be the worst season for twenty years in British Coinmbia; 1914 was deemed above the average, so we have the extremes of good and bad. As a sample of what constitutes a poor year elsewhere, one may refer to the Province of Ontario, where skilled bee-keepers report an average of 10 lb. a hive in 1914.

Now, we have very few skilled bee-keepers in British Columbia, yet the reports indicate an average crop of over 31 lb, a hive in 1913. If we select out of the reports the aplaries reporting 31 ib, a hive or over, we will find that fifty-six bee-keepers with 525 colouies produced 27,832 lb, of by vey, or an average of 53 lb, to the hive, while 329 bee-keepers owning 666 hives of faced 9,950 lb, an average of 15 lb, to the hive. It begins to look as if a very or season in British Columbia would be called a good senson anywhere else.

Examining the figures for 1914 in the same way, we find ninety-three bee-keepers who report nu average production above 60 lb. They owned n total of 778 colonies nud raised 65,352 lb, of hôney, being an average of 84 lb. On the other hand, 292 bee-keepers owning 1,359 colonies produced 38,824 lb, being an average of 29 lb. per hive.