

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

Honey Production in British Columbia, Year 1918.

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ON the first day of October, 1918, there were listed on the records of the Department of Agriculture the names of 1,611 bee-keepers in the Province. From all of them there was requested a honey-crop report for the season, and 510 reported. Briefly stated, we get the following results:—

Year.	Colonies in April.	Crop.	Average per Hive.
1918	2,897	Lb. 139,671	Lb. 48

Assuming that those reporting are fairly representative bee-keepers, a little calculation will show that the total honey-crop of the Province is indicated to be about 222 tons. If we calculate the crop of individual districts on the basis of the figures given, making due allowance for the status of the bee-keepers reporting—in some districts the most successful bee-keepers did not report, while in others they made returns so unanimously that they overweighted the totals—we find the crop indicated to be about 232 tons, so that it is apparently a fair assumption that the total crop of the year was about 227 tons, being an increase over 1917 of 67 tons, or 42 per cent., and easily the biggest crop in the history of the Province.

The honey was of very fine quality and sold readily at 28 cents a pound wholesale. The retail price was usually 40 cents a pound, the buyer providing the container. For many years, up to the beginning of the war, the wholesale price of British Columbia honey was 17 cents a pound, so that the price in 1918 showed an increase of 60 per cent. above the old ruling price. This is probably high-water mark, and we may expect a slight drop in the year to come.

The Bee Inspectors have usually estimated the annual consumption of honey in British Columbia to be about 200 tons, so that apparently the crop of 1918 indicates overproduction. Such is not the case, as several wholesale houses before the end of the year had imported very large quantities from Australia, finding a ready market on the Prairies for all they could buy. The writer is of opinion that the bee-keepers of British Columbia will have no cause to worry about overproduction until the total crop reaches the 1,000-ton mark—say, eight or ten years hence.