

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>	420	114	631	19,814	313
Nicomen	13	3	9	255	28
North Vancouver	46	18	60	1,174	17
Point Grey	41	11	32	965	30
Richmond	43	11	57	3,270	57
South Vancouver	68	25	133	3,529	18
Sumas	45	3	65	568	9
Surrey	73	18	138	3,017	22
Vancouver	51	26	100	2,097	30
Comox	24	8	9	375	42
Duncan	22	6	9	80	9
Gulf Islands	25	12	50	910	15
Nanaimo	76	28	91	782	9
Victoria	67	2	15	25	1
Okanagan Lake	112	27	166	9,379	56
Thompson River	45	10	144	5,556	38
Arrow Lakes	32	13	54	2,141	40
Kootenay Lake	110	39	146	10,823	74
Totals	1,315	369	1,929	65,971	34

Since the call for crop reports was issued about 100 names have been added to the list, but it has been deemed advisable to assume that, as these were probably beginners, they got no crop at all, and thus avoid unduly inflating the total of the crop.

In 1915 the bee-keepers of the Province reported an average of 7.4 hives to the apriary; in 1916 it fell to 5.22. These figures give us some data by which to measure the average death-rate among bees last winter. If we assume an increase o. only 10 per cent. in the number of colonies in the summer of 1915, the death-rate works out at 40 per cent., a very serious immediate loss of at least \$20,000, and a prospective crop loss during the season of 1916 of as big a sum to our bee-keeping industry; but to make matters worse the colonies that survived were very weak. When we consider the cold, wet weather of spring and summer, the wonder is that a crop of any kind was secured. That the bees were so generally got into good condition for what little opportunity there was reflects great credit on the bee-keepers themselves, and the writer feels certain that in later years the majority of them will look upon the season of 1916 as a blessing in disguise, as it caused many a one who had followed apiculture in a rather haphazard way to read, study, and talak, laying a foundation for solid achievements in the years to come.

That decided progress in total honey production was made in face of a heavy loss of stock and despite a most unfavourable season is an achievement of which the members of any industry have right to feel proud. It is a real proof of staying power, the heritage of our race.

It is improbable that such a winter and spring will ever again be experienced by the present bee-keepers of British Columbia; nevertheless, there are lessons to be learned, and now is the time to point the moral. It has been the habit of the bee-keepers in this Province to assume that it was unnecessary to provide any form of protection for the bees in winter, probably arguing that even if the colonies were weak in spring they had plenty of time to build up for the honey-flow. There was much of truth in the theory in many regions where the harvest did not come until the end of June, say from alsike clover, snowberry-bush, and from fireweed later in the season. It was emphatically not true in many regions where maples formed the possible source of nectar, and this harvest of delicious honey in April was annually lost because the colonies were too weak to take advantage of the opportunity. Every bee-keeper of any prominence the world over insists that bees can never be too strong