

joined table is published in the report of the Bureau just issued for 1887.

Districts.	No. of Returns.	No. of Colonies.					Produce of Season.			Value of Honey and Wax Produce.
		Put into winter quarters in 1886.	With which season of 1887 opened.	Increase in 1887.	Put into winter quarters in 1887.	Comb Honey.	Extracted Honey.	Wax.		
Lake Erie.....	agg. 91 av.	2,403 27.1	1,886 20.7	1,471 16.2	3,094 34.0	17,961	45,660	579	7,496 02	
Lake Huron....	agg. 95 av.	2,023 21.3	1,613 17.0	1,479 16.6	2,850 30.0	9,206	71,205	664	7,903 27	
Georgian Bay..	agg. 58 av.	1,454 25.1	1,065 18.2	1,017 17.5	1,958 23.8	7,163	49,262	70	83 19	
West Midland.	agg. 137 av.	4,892 31.1	3,874 24.7	2,437 15.5	5,921 37.7	124	125,999	1,230	6,062 36	
Lake Ontario..	agg. 133 av.	4,442 33.4	3,435 25.8	2,264 17.0	5,396 40.8	37,217	131,741	1,533	15,709 08	
St. Lawrence and Ottawa..	agg. 76 av.	2,565 38.8	1,916 25.2	1,590 20.9	3,275 43.1	280	915	1,160	17,968 23	
East Midland.	agg. 28 av.	987 35.3	644 23.0	457 16.3	1,046 37.4	312	672	153	7,961 61	
Northern Districts....	agg. 13 av.	199 15.3	190 14.6	148 11.4	248 22.2	3,698	27,949	429	104 76	
						192	6,920	153	2,958 06	
						39	532	63	1,176 56	
						112,277	490,093	6,686	90 50	
The Province..	agg. 651 fav.	19,015 29.2	14,613 22.4	10,863 16.7	23,886 36.6	112,277	490,093	6,686	97,287 12	
						172	707	103	103 32	

The statician, Mr. Blue, thus comments:

The 651 apiarists reporting put 19,015 hives into winter quarters in 1886, and began the spring of 1887 with but 14,613 or 4,402 hives less. The greater part of that decrease represents the colonies that died in the winter; a number of colonies were also bought or sold to trim up the apiary in the spring. By the fall of 1887, however, the total number of colonies ready for winter quarters had grown to 23,828, a clear increase of 9,215 in the season and 4,813 more than in the previous fall. The increase from new colonies in 1887 would have made the total for wintering larger but for the fact that "dwindling" and the drouth had weakened many of the hives to such an extent as to make doubling up a necessity in many cases. The average number of hives per apiary placed in winter quarters in 1886 was 29.2, while in 1887 it had increased to 36.6.

The total yield of honey reported for 1887 was 611,370 lbs., of which 112,277 lbs. of about 18.3

per cent. was disposed of in the comb. The average per apiary was 939 lbs., or nearly 26 lbs. per hive, which is considered to be not more than half of the usual yield. The product of wax aggregated 6,686 lbs., or an average of 10.3 per bee-keeper. Wax is too valuable for foundation comb to be readily parted with by the apiarist, and the various ingenious methods for straining honey enable the bee-keeper to hold back the wax unless honey in the comb is specially desired. The average value of the honey and wax for each apiary was \$103.28, the amount over the \$100 representing the value of the wax.

The largest number of returns came from the West Midland group, and the next largest from the Lake Ontario counties. In the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties the average number of hives per apiary is higher than that of any other group, being 43.1, and the Lake Ontario counties follow with an average of 40.6 colonies. The value of the product of honey and wax in the Lake Ontario group was \$17,968.22, or fully double that of any of the groups except the West Midland, where it reached \$15,709.03. In the Lake Erie group the provincial average value of \$103.28 per hive fell to \$82.40, while in the Lake Ontario counties it was \$135.10.

The season of 1887 was one that apiarists will be likely to remember on account of the extraordinary effect of the drouth upon the yield of honey. The bees came through the winter in good condition generally, anything like severe winter-killing being reported from but two or three counties. The season opened early and swarming was unusually vigorous—"early and often" was the favorite description of correspondents. A few cases of foul brood were reported, but on the whole the condition of the bees was healthy. The hives were quickly stored with honey, but the drouth cut the season short. The white clover and linden blooms were soon over, and the bees were early without a foraging ground for nectar. As the season of buckwheat blossom was also shortened by the drouth the bees ceased making honey and began to draw upon their stores in the latter part of July. This enforced idleness from lack of opportunity to get sweets for honey kept alive many old bees that otherwise would have died from hard work or exposure, though there will probably be a heavy falling off in the spring. But to meet this, the queen, who ceased laying early, will after her long rest be likely to start laying earlier than usual in the spring, and will soon make up for any loss among the old bees. Experienced bee-keepers place the average net yield per colony, spring count, at 25 lbs.