

being cheered occasionally by finding some one really interested in bee-keeping. Here is a choice example that still brings great comfort to the Inspector in the Wet Belt. In the first edition one bee-keeper who had conducted an apiary of about fifty colonies for fourteen years is reported as saying: "We keep bees now only to make certain the pollination of the fruit. I do not advise any one to try to make a living in this region from bees, as they rarely do more than get sufficient stores to winter on, and often not that much. Our nights are too cool for the secretion of nectar." The Inspector visited his apiary in May, 1911, and suggested a slight change in his management, which was adopted. The crop that season averaged 66 lb. a hive. The poorest crop was in 1913, the worst season for honey in twenty years, when 40 lb. a colony was got. The crop of 1914 averaged over 110 lb. The region was all right, but his system was wrong at just one point. It would have worked splendidly in Ontario, but it was not suited for British Columbia. When the Inspector first gets in touch with a man who has kept bees east of the mountains, he almost invariably meets a bee-keeper who ignores all suggestions, and who undoubtedly knows that the Inspector is not a good bee-man. However, if the Inspector can get the other to run even only one hive his way, he feels he has made some progress.

So far as apiculture is concerned, British Columbia differs from almost the whole world in one important respect—namely, our spring building-up season is four months long; east of the Rocky mountains it is not half as much. Our bees are carrying in pollen early in March; clover blooms at the end of May, but, and this is all-important, apparently nectar is not secreted until June is past. The whole system of bee-management has to be based on the fact of a long spring. Independently the Inspectors worked out a bee-keeping system; on comparing notes they found themselves in agreement. The essence of it is tersely set forth in the first chapter, where it has been placed for ready reference.

By the end of 1914 the Bee Inspectors had been in touch with close on 1,000 bee-keepers, and at the end of the season the Department of Agriculture asked from each a report on the honey-crop for 1913 and 1914. The former year was considered, as has already been said, to be the worst honey-year for twenty years; the latter is considered as being a little better than the average, so from the figures we can form a pretty fair estimate of the honey possibilities of British Columbia as a whole and by districts. The table given below is a copy of the crop report for 1914 as prepared for the Statistical Bureau of the Department.

REPORT OF HONEY-CROP BY DISTRICTS FOR 1914. COMPILED JANUARY 31ST, 1915.

District.	Bee-keepers on List.	Bee-keepers reporting.	Hives reported.	Crop reported.	Average per Hive.
				lb.	lb.
Islands	151	41	185	7,900	42
Lower Mainland	596	216	1,260	63,306	50
Thompson River Water- shed	30	14	115	9,314	80
Okanagan Valley	86	37	285	14,233	50
Kootenays	97	50	269	15,164	56
Totals	960	364	2,114	100,977	52

Estimated total crop of British Columbia, 1914, 150 tons.

The average crop per hive reported by more than one-third of the bee-keepers is the rather presentable amount of 52 lb. The beginners with no crop, and they are numerous; the men of little experience, and they form the majority; the experts, who are few, all are included when the average crop is struck. But let it be distinctly understood that this average is not the possible by any means, for, as a matter of fact, less than 100 men owning 778 colonies secured three-fourths of the total crop.