

GUIDE TO BEE-KEEPING.

CHAPTER I.

Bee-keepers' Calendar for British Columbia.

- Jan. 1. Place order with dealer for beeware; payment to be made when goods are delivered in April or May. In summer a hive consists of at least three stories—two brood chambers and the honey super.
- March. On a warm day in the latter half of the month clean bottom boards.
- May 1. *Wet Belt.*—On all strong colonies place a second story of brood-combs to give queen more room to lay.
- " 15. *Dry Belt.*—On all strong colonies place a second story of brood-combs to give queen more room to lay. When bees hang out at night, enlarge entrance of hive.
- June 21. Place honey supers on all strong colonies. In most years the honey-flow starts early in July. Generally the clover honey-flow is over by the middle of the month. The season is very short, so to secure a good crop the colony must be strong.
- Aug. 15. Extract in clover districts.
- Sept. 15. Extract in fireweed and alfalfa districts.
- " 15. Pack bees for winter. Make sure each colony has at least six combs of honey in brood-chamber.

PROGRESS OF BROOD-RAISING.

Spring development of the hive as noted in 1914 during demonstration-work. The results are not the best possible by any means, and beginners may find them useful as a standard.

April	3.	Average combs with brood,	4; best, 5.
"	15.	"	4; " 6.
"	20.	"	5; " 6.
"	30.	"	5½.
May	3.	"	6¼.
"	5.	"	7¼.
"	8.	"	11.
"	17.	"	9½.
"	20.	"	10; best, 13.

CHAPTER II.

Apian Possibilities of British Columbia.

Before the first edition of this bulletin was issued in 1911 an effort was made to secure from bee-keepers in every part of the Province definite information as to the possibilities of honey production. While a few rather good reports were received, take it all in all, most of them were rather discouraging. The facts as given were plainly set forth, and then the Department of Agriculture sent out three Inspectors to study the situation and to guide the novices.

There is no need to tell the trials and troubles of these men during the first two years of their labours; how they found keepers of bees in plenty, but few bee-keepers; and how every suggestion for improvement was met with indifference. The climatic and floral conditions of every district, down almost to the last square mile, had to be learned and understood, but unfortunately the bee-men of each locality were generally rather unobservant. Patiently the Inspectors kept on with their work,