

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

This year the forms for reporting the winter loss and the condition of the clover were sent out earlier than usual. From the first reports a heavy winter loss was anticipated, but those received later are more favorable.

Eight hundred beekeepers reported 27,738 colonies in the fall and 24,950 colonies in the spring, showing a winter loss of 2,785 colonies, or 10%. There are probably fewer beekeepers in this Province to-day than a few years ago, due, largely to the winter loss, diseases, and possibly to the extra farm work and shortage of labor from war demands.

The mild spell in January caused the bees to rear brood and draw heavily on their stores. This with the high price of sugar last fall causing a stint on feeding heavily, resulted in many colonies starving towards the end of the cold weather. A few warm days early in April gave the bees a splendid cleansing flight and their condition now is reported as very good. The continued cold wet weather has retarded building up and the gathering of fresh stores, and many colonies may perish if neglected.

While the reports were only sent to a revised list of active beekeepers, 164 were returned with the remark "Not a Beekeeper." The careless, indifferent beekeepers with only a few colonies are rapidly disappearing, and the honey producing industry is becoming a specialist's occupation. At least it may be stated that while the number of colonies of bees in the Province has not increased there are more extensive producers and fewer small beekeepers. From the standpoint of honey production this is a much desired condition, indicating that the industry is getting on a better business basis from year to year.

Further evidence of the progress of the industry is the number of honey extractors in use. Some of the 800 beekeepers reporting undoubtedly produce comb honey, and hence, have no extractor, but 574 extractors of different sizes are in use. Twenty-one beekeepers are using power machines. Many more could probably be profitably employed. Of the 553 hand honey extractors in use, 201 are two-frame and 178, four-frame. Sixteen beekeepers are using motor cars to advantage. The increasing number of out-yards will undoubtedly increase the number in use.

The clover prospects are very good throughout the Province. The latter part of the season of 1915 being wet gave the new seeding an excellent start and the scarcity of farm labor has increased the acreage seeded down. The honey market in Canada seems to be practically bare at present, and dealers are already contracting for 1916 crops at advanced prices. The scarcity of sugar assures a good market for a large crop of honey.

MORLEY PETTIT.

Fertilizer and Other Queries.

1. What variety of grain would you advise sowing on new soil which has grown but one crop of fall rye? The soil is a brown clay with 2 inches of black loam on top.
2. When should New Brunswick fertilizer be applied to potato and vegetable soil? I have several acres of fall-plowed ground which I intend to plant to cabbage, potatoes, onion sets, beets etc.
3. Please state how and just when I should apply this New Brunswick fertilizer, and in what quantity?
4. Would it be all right for potatoes, turnips and cabbages?
5. Is "The Farmer's Advocate" printed in French by the Wm. Weld Co.? J. O.
- Ans.—1. Oats or barley should do all right.
2. When preparing the ground for planting.
3. Get directions for application from the manufacturers or salesmen.
4. We do not know its composition so cannot give an estimate of its value. If you mean basic slag it will be all right, and should be applied about 400 lbs. per acre.
5. No.



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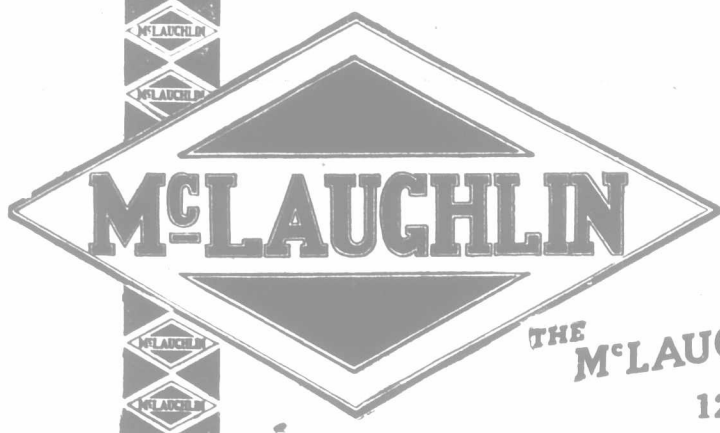
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