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Memorandum

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HONEY PRODUCTION^x FIRST ESTIMATE - 1954

Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1954 of 19.9 million pounds. This is about 25 per cent less than the 1953 crop of 26.4 million pounds. It is the smallest crop since 1926, honey statistics having been compiled on an all Canada basis since 1924, and 43 per cent below the 1943-52 average of 34.6 million pounds. The drop in production this year was attributed to low average yields per colony resulting from unfavourable weather conditions experienced throughout much of Canada. Quebec was the only province where beekeepers obtained higher average yields this year.

Colony numbers were down slightly in 1954 from 1953 due to decreases in Quebec and Ontario. The number of beekeepers, however, was up by six per cent, increases occurring in all provinces except Quebec and Alberta while colony numbers were greater everywhere except in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island. The increase in beekeepers marks the first upward change in this figure since 1945 when the number of beekeepers reached 43,300, the maximum on record.

The proportions of the total honey crop produced in eastern and western Canada this year were not greatly different from 1953. In both seasons Ontario and Quebec together produced 49 per cent of the total crop with Quebec's share being higher this year than last. Beekeepers in the three Prairie Provinces produced 44 per cent of the 1954 crop and 45 per cent of the 1953 crop. However, it may be noted that in 1952, 62 per cent of the Canadian honey crop was produced in Ontario and Quebec. Over the ten year period 1942-53, 50 per cent came from Ontario and Quebec and 47 per cent from the Prairie Provinces.

x Source: Estimates for the province of Quebec are prepared by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce, of that province. For all other provinces except Newfoundland, for which data are not available, the estimates are prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the provinces. Three mail questionnaire surveys are conducted, one in July to obtain the number of colonies and another in September to determine yields. A final yield and price survey is conducted in November. Provincial officials provide the mailing lists of beekeepers and aid in the interpretation of survey results.

Preliminary Estimates of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies of
Bees and Production of Honey in Canada^{1/}, by Provinces,
1953 and 1954^{2/}

Province and Year			Bee- keepers	Colonies	HONEY	
					Average	Total
					Production per Colony	Production
			no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I.	Average	1943-52	130	700	76	53
		1953	110	800	85	68
		1954	120	800	81	65
N. S.	Average	1943-52	380	1,800	54	97
		1953	380	1,800	76	137
		1954	500	2,500	52	130
N. B.	Average	1943-52	480	2,700	55	149
		1953	290	1,900	65	124
		1954	310	2,000	59	118
Que.	Average	1943-52	5,030	82,200	52	4,271
		1953	3,460	64,600	46	2,972
		1954	3,220	59,000	65	3,835
Ont.	Average	1943-52	5,250	215,400	60	12,988
		1953	3,350	170,000	59	10,000
		1954	3,760	167,000	36	6,012
Man.	Average	1943-52	3,150	55,300	93	5,139
		1953	1,030	35,000	138	4,830
		1954	1,250	36,500	112	4,088
Sask.	Average	1943-52	7,630	53,900	94	5,073
		1953	2,270	24,600	132	3,247
		1954	2,680	25,700	81	2,082
Alta.	Average	1943-52	6,680	57,100	102	5,796
		1953	1,560	31,100	124	3,856
		1954	1,300	33,800	74	2,501
B. C.	Average	1943-52	2,820	18,400	57	1,050
		1953	1,500	11,500	100	1,150
		1954	1,600	12,700	84	1,067
CANADA	Average	1943-52	31,550	487,500	71	34,616
		1953	13,950	341,300	77	26,384
		1954	14,740	340,000	58	19,898

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.