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THE 1941 CANADIAN HONEY CROP

Ottawa, December 22, 1941.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues today a preliminary report on honey production in Canada in 1941.

SUMMARY

The first estimate of the 1941 honey crop shows a total production of 26,026,400 pounds. This represents a 10 per cent increase in production compared with the short crop of 1940 and is approximately equal to the average production of the previous ten years. Unfavourable weather conditions curtailed the volume of production but the crop on the whole is of good quality. About 75 per cent of the crop has been marketed at prices averaging slightly less than one cent per pound higher than paid for the 1940 crop.

Production

The first estimate of total Canadian honey production in 1941 shows a crop of 26,026,400 pounds as compared with the revised estimate of 23,673,100 pounds produced in 1940, an increase of 2,353,300 pounds or 9.9 per cent. While this year's crop is 12.5 per cent smaller than the 5-year (1935-39) average production of 29,746,500 pounds, it is approximately equal to the 10-year (1930-39) average of 26,696,000 pounds. Increases in production in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta were more than sufficient to offset declines in Saskatchewan, Quebec, British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces.

The Ontario crop, which comprises 42 per cent of the total Canadian production, is estimated at 11.0 million pounds, which is 1.5 million pounds or 15.8 per cent larger than the 1940 crop of 9.5 million pounds. The Manitoba crop shows an increase of 1.3 million pounds or 36.2 per cent as compared with a production of 3.7 million pounds in 1940. The Alberta crop of 3.1 million pounds showed a corresponding increase of 39.5 per cent. There were reductions of 19.4 per cent in Saskatchewan, 15.5 per cent in Quebec, 7.5 per cent in British Columbia, and 27.8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

While the number of beekeepers is approximately the same as in 1940, an increase of 3.4 per cent is indicated in the total number of hives, increases being common to all provinces except Manitoba where a decrease of 16 per cent is shown.

The distribution of the 1941 honey production in pounds, by provinces, in order of magnitude, follows, with the revised estimates for 1940 within brackets: Ontario 11,000,000 (9,500,000); Manitoba 5,000,000 (3,699,900); Alberta 3,100,000 (2,222,000); Saskatchewan 2,966,500 (3,682,000); Quebec 2,630,000 (3,112,300); British Columbia 1,169,000 (1,264,000); Maritime Provinces 160,900 (222,900).

Comparative data for the ten-year period 1932 to 1940 are shown in the tables which follow:

Table 1.

Total Production of Honey in Canada, 1932 to 1941.

	<u>pounds</u>
1932	21,169,300
1933	25,287,800
1934	27,062,800
1935	26,814,800
1936	31,938,100
1937	23,196,600
1938	37,909,900
1939	28,873,100
1940	23,673,100
1941	26,026,400
Ten-year average 1930-39	26,696,000
Five-year average 1935-39	29,746,500

Preliminary Estimates of Canadian Honey Production, by Provinces,
1941 as compared with Revised Estimates for 1940.

Province	1940	1941	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with 1940	Percentage Change from 1940
	lb.	lb.	lb.	p.c.
Maritime Provinces	222,900	160,900	- 62,000	- 27.8
Quebec	3,112,300	2,630,000	- 482,300	- 15.5
Ontario	9,500,000	11,000,000	+ 1,500,000	+ 15.8
Manitoba	3,669,900	5,000,000	+ 1,330,100	+ 36.2
Saskatchewan	3,682,000	2,966,500	- 715,500	- 19.4
Alberta.....	2,222,000	3,100,000	+ 878,000	+ 39.5
British Columbia	1,264,000	1,169,000	- 95,000	- 7.5
CANADA	23,673,100	26,026,400	+ 2,353,300	+ 9.9

The 1941 Honey Crop Season

Maritime Provinces.- Production was greatly curtailed by continued cool rainy weather throughout the season, which was one of the poorest in years except in the upper section of New Brunswick where a fairly good crop was harvested.

Quebec and Ontario.- The extreme drought conditions that prevailed in Quebec during the blossoming period for clover and buckwheat reduced yields drastically in that province. In Ontario, variable weather conditions resulted in an erratic honey flow with considerable variations even within counties. The hot, dry summer caused a very short crop in some sections. In other areas where opportune rains were received there were record crops. There was very little dark honey brought in.

Prairie Provinces.- A late spring in Manitoba was unfavourable for the development of package bees and there was little pollen. However, the honey flow from sweet clover began earlier than usual and continued well into August when adverse weather set in stopping all extraction. Colonies built up well in Saskatchewan during the spring and the honey season opened with exceptionally high daily yields. Prospects of a bumper crop were good until July 26 when excessive heat cut short the nectar secretion with the result that the total volume of the crop was less than average. Spring weather conditions were only fair in Alberta and much feeding was necessary. Average yields were higher than in the previous year although the main honey flow was prematurely curtailed by drought and infestations of beet webworm.

British Columbia.- Weather conditions during the winter of 1940-41 were very mild and winter losses did not exceed 15 per cent. Crop conditions during the early part of the season were excellent, but a heat wave in mid-July cut off the honey flow abruptly. Continuous rains after the crop was taken off in August caused a depletion of stores so that the total honey crop was light and the bees went into winter quarters with a shortage of stores.

Quality of the 1941 Crop

Although reduced in volume, the Maritime crop is of average quality and much superior to the crop of the previous year. Colour, flavour and density are good for the most part although there is considerable variation in the New Brunswick crop. The Quebec crop is of average colour and low moisture content. The quality of the Ontario crop is above average and decidedly superior to the 1940 crop. The Manitoba crop is reported the best in years and Saskatchewan honey is also of very good quality. The Alberta crop graded mostly water white, with a moisture content of 14.6 to 17.6 per cent. The flavour is generally excellent. The British Columbia honey is of good average quality.

Condition of Bees Going into Winter Quarters and Crop Outlook for 1942

The condition of bees going into winter quarters was reported as good in New Brunswick, only fair in Prince Edward Island, and variable in Nova Scotia where bees were in good condition in the larger apiaries, but poor in the smaller holdings. A shortage of stores was evident in many areas in Quebec and Ontario. Ontario colonies were strong, however, and prospects for the 1942 season are good. There is an increase this year in the number of over-wintered colonies in Manitoba. The bees went into the winter in good condition and with pasture prospects excellent, the outlook for the 1942

crop is favourable. Prospects in Saskatchewan are fair. The bees are well fed, and were put away before being exposed to the severe weather. Only about 20 per cent of the hives are wintered in Alberta. The bees are in good condition and crop prospects for 1942 are reported normal or better. Owing to continuous rains after the crop was taken off in August no fall honey was obtained in British Columbia and feeding will be necessary.

Prices and Marketing

Approximately 75 per cent of the 1941 honey crop was out of the producers' hands by December 1. Prices paid to the producers for this year's crop during the three months September - November average 0.8 cents per pound higher than were paid during the corresponding three months in 1940. The price increases averaged 1/2 cent per pound in Ontario, 1 cent per pound in the Western and Maritime Provinces, and 2 cents per pound in Quebec. A preliminary estimate places the value of the 1941 honey crop at \$2,936,400 as compared with \$2,508,400, the revised value of the 1940 honey crop. This represents an average price to the producer of 11.4 cents per pound compared with 10.6 cents per pound received for the 1940 crop.

Table 3.

Percentage Proportions of the 1941 Crop Marketed as at December 1, and Average Prices Paid to Producers During the Three Months September - November, 1941, Compared with Prices During the Corresponding period in 1940.

Province	Proportion of 1941 Crop Marketed p.c.	Prices Paid to Producers September - November	
		1941	1940
		cents per pound	
Maritime Provinces	56	16	15
Quebec	85	14	12
Ontario	65	10	9.5
Manitoba	90	10	9
Saskatchewan	90	11.5	10.5
Alberta	60	13	12
British Columbia	80	18	17
CANADA	74.7	11.4	10.6

Table 4.

Average Wholesale Price Quotations on Representative Markets for Canadian Honey in Consumer and Bulk Containers, September - November, 1940 and 1941

	2's		4's		Bulk Containers	
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941
Montreal	12.0	14.1	11.6	13.7	11.4	12.9
Toronto	12.6	13.4	12.0	12.7	11.3	11.8
Winnipeg	13.1	13.0	11.8	12.3	1/	1/
Regina	13.1	14.1	12.5	13.1	1/	1/
Calgary	13.2	14.1	12.6	13.5	1/	1/
Vancouver	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	12.0

1/ No quotations for local honey.

Canadian Honey in the United Kingdom Market

The quota for Canadian honey for the period ending August 31, 1942 has been set by the British Ministry of Food at 2,001 tons, the same as in the previous year. This is equivalent to approximately 4.5 million pounds. The price remains unchanged, the maximum for Canadian bulk honey being fixed at 65/- per cwt. c.i.f., equivalent to approximately 13 cents per pound Canadian at current official rates.

Exports and Imports

Exports of honey during the crop year ended July 31, 1941 amounted to only 4,438,481 pounds as compared with 10,046,022 pounds in the previous crop year. Imports during the same period totalled 1,653,744 pounds in 1941 and 1,335,043 pounds in 1940.

Exports during the four months August - November 1941 amounted to 1,307,289 pounds as compared with 2,955,112 pounds in the corresponding period in 1940. Imports during the same periods were 232 pounds in 1941 and 814,711 pounds in 1940.

Table 5.

Exports of Honey from Canada, for the Crop Years 1936-37 to 1940-41.

<u>Year ended July 31</u>	<u>Quantity</u> lb.	<u>Value</u> \$
1937	2,668,581	225,387
1938	2,842,923	240,539
1939	5,511,988	413,112
1940	10,046,022	1,080,543
1941	4,438,481	506,891

Table 6.

Imports of Honey into Canada for the Crop Years 1936-37 to 1940-41

<u>Year ended July 31</u>	<u>Quantity</u> lb.	<u>Value</u> \$
1937	32,510	3,790
1938	131,059	12,661
1939	35,510	4,880
1940	1,335,043	79,539
1941	1,653,744	93,337

The United States Honey Report

The semi-monthly honey report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on December 1, reads in part as follows:-

"Late reports indicate that feeding has been necessary over a much wider area than was expected early in the fall, due to the lack of a fall flow. Further, many colonies are probably going into winter lighter in weight than is desirable. Most colonies, however, have an adequate supply of bees, and over much of the country broodrearing continued so late that these are young bees.

"Sales of honey continue in substantial volume, and the equivalent of many carloads has moved to market during the past two-week period. Local sales have generally been good, and the coming of cooler weather causes beekeepers to anticipate still better demand in the near future. Price ranges have been wide. While some honey has moved at last year's levels many other lots have sold at from 1/2 to 1 1/2 cents per pound advance over 1940 figures. There is a widespread feeling of optimism on the part of beekeepers regarding the possibility of higher prices in 1942, and many commercial beekeepers are holding their honey awaiting a possible strengthening of the market levels. Demand for beeswax appears to be slackening, with some large buyers temporarily out of the market. But except on the Pacific Coast beeswax prices are generally maintaining their previous levels."



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