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THE 1938 HONEY CROP

The 1938 Canadian honey crop was the largest on record. A preliminary estimate places total production at approximately 34 million pounds, which is 12 million pounds or 56 per cent more than the short crop of the previous year. It also exceeds the low average production of the five years 1933-1937 by 10 million pounds and the previous record crop of 1931 by 4 million pounds. Weather conditions during the fall of 1937 and throughout the 1938 season were favourable for the growth of nectar-secreting plants and although the prolonged wet weather during the summer curtailed the ingathering of nectar, increases over production in the previous year were recorded in nearly all provinces. The crop was generally of good quality.

I. - Total Production of Honey in Canada, 1929 to 1938.

	pounds		pounds
1929	28,048,000	1934	24,270,000
1930	29,549,000	1935	24,291,000
1931	29,666,000	1936	28,234,000
1932	19,470,000	1937	21,734,000
1933	22,916,000	1938	33,975,000 1/

1/ Preliminary

II. - Preliminary Estimate of Canadian Honey Production, by Provinces, 1938 as compared with 1937.

Province	1937	1938	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with 1937
	lb.	lb.	
Prince Edward Island	16,000	11,000	- 5,000
Nova Scotia	50,000	65,000	+ 15,000
New Brunswick	80,000	60,000	- 20,000
Quebec	3,589,000	5,214,000	+ 1,625,000
Ontario	6,520,000	12,648,000	+ 6,128,000
Manitoba	6,749,000	9,599,000	+ 2,850,000
Saskatchewan	1,143,000	2,794,000	+ 1,651,000
Alberta	2,160,000	2,000,000	- 160,000
British Columbia	1,427,000	1,584,000	+ 157,000
CANADA	21,734,000	33,975,000	+ 12,241,000

In spite of unfavourable weather conditions and an abnormally high percentage of weak colonies, the Ontario crop was the largest by a wide margin. Estimated at 12.6 million pounds, it was almost double the extremely small crop of 1937 and more than a million pounds higher than the average of the previous ten years.

The combined production for the three Prairie Provinces exceeded the record previously established in 1936. Producers in Manitoba reported good to very good crops, with moisture content lower than in 1937. Although the crop of buckwheat honey was very light, total production estimated at 9.6 million pounds was considerably heavier than in the previous year. Production in Saskatchewan was more than double the 1937 crop and the highest on record for the province. The honey for the most part

was of good quality, but much variation was shown among the different sections. Although colonies generally were in excellent shape when the honey flow commenced the first week in July, nectar was gathered slowly owing to the cool weather and in the southern half of the province the flow ceased at the end of the month. The average production per colony was, therefore, below normal. In the northern half of the province, however, the flow continued well into September with the result that the average production per colony for this section was quite high. The season in Alberta was most erratic and for the first time since 1922 there was a heavy September flow. The average yield per colony was low but production was maintained by the increase in the size of apiaries and the number of new beekeepers coming into production. The product was generally reported to be of excellent flavour and high density.

The crop in British Columbia was of record proportions, with production in all districts uniformly higher than in 1937 and more evenly distributed in the various districts than in any previous year. Even in the poorest locations the crop was fair to good due, no doubt, to the long summer of continuously fine warm weather, an unusual condition in the coast districts of the lower mainland. The honey was of light amber colour and of high quality, due to the slow steady flow in June and July.

Although the season in Quebec was shortened considerably by the cold wet weather, production was heavier than anticipated earlier in the season, owing to the heavy flow from late clover and buckwheat. The buckwheat crop was of average size but the extracted crop of white honey was the largest in many years. The honey was of exceptionally good quality with moisture content generally low. Colonies were healthy and entered the winter in good condition.

Production in the Maritime Provinces was slightly lower than in the previous year, an increase in production in Nova Scotia being offset by decreases in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Prolonged wet weather curtailed the activities of the weaker colonies, particularly in New Brunswick where losses during the previous winter had been heavy.

Although stocks of honey were low in the late summer months before the new crop came on the market, heavy supplies from the 1938 crop have resulted in average prices of from one to two cents per pound lower than in the fall of 1937.