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Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Agricultural Branch:

R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF HONEY AND BEESWAX

Production of honey in 1937 was sharply lower than in 1936. Although the estimated number of colonies increased by 20,470 from 370,880 in 1936 to 391,350 in 1937, the total honey crop was estimated at only 21.7 million pounds as compared with 28.2 millions in 1936 and 23.8 million pounds, the five-year average (1932-1936). This represents a decrease of 6.5 million pounds or 23 per cent as compared with 1936, and makes the 1937 crop the smallest since 1926, with the exception of the year 1932 when production dropped to 19.5 million pounds from the record high of 29.7 million pounds in 1931.

Heavy losses of bees during the winter of 1936-37, winter killing of clovers which are the main sources of nectar, and unfavourable weather conditions during the summer months took a heavy toll over wide sections of the country, particularly in Ontario, western Manitoba and the drought area of Saskatchewan. The heaviest decline was registered in Ontario, normally the largest producing province. With less than half a normal crop in 1937, this province ranked second in production for the first time in the history of the industry. The largest crop was reported in Manitoba where an average yield of 122 pounds per hive produced a crop estimated at 6.7 million pounds. Increases over 1936 production were reported from British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The total production of beeswax showed a decline corresponding to the decreased honey production and was estimated at 268,600 pounds in 1937 as compared with 342,700 pounds in 1936.

The 1937 honey crop, totalling 21,733,250 pounds, was distributed by provinces in order of magnitude as follows, with the estimates for the 1936 crop within brackets: Manitoba 6,748,550 (8,135,500); Ontario 6,520,000 (8,970,000); Quebec 3,589,000 (5,395,550); Alberta 2,160,000 (1,850,000); British Columbia 1,427,000 (1,129,700); Saskatchewan 1,142,550 (2,636,300); New Brunswick 80,000 (50,000); Nova Scotia 50,000 (52,750); Prince Edward Island 16,150 (14,000).

The average prices received for honey, in cents per pound, as reported by producers to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics were as follows, with the 1936 prices within brackets: Prince Edward Island 12 (14); Nova Scotia 16 (17); New Brunswick 18 (18); Quebec 10 (10); Ontario 10 (10); Manitoba 9 (9); Saskatchewan 11 (11); Alberta 10 (11); British Columbia 15 (15).

The total value of honey and wax amounted to \$2,272,200 in 1937 as compared with \$2,938,700 in 1936. The distribution by provinces in order of magnitude was as follows, with the 1936 figures within brackets: Ontario \$675,550 (\$927,850); Manitoba \$624,300 (\$748,600); Quebec \$373,200 (\$557,600); Alberta \$225,100 (\$211,000); British Columbia \$218,350 (\$172,250); Saskatchewan \$130,500 (\$300,700); New Brunswick \$14,750 (\$9,200); Nova Scotia \$8,400 (\$9,500); Prince Edward Island \$2,000 (\$2,000).



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