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PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF THE 1939 HONEY CROP

Ottawa, May 4, 1940, 12 noon. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues today a report on the production and marketing of the 1939 honey crop.

PRODUCTION

The revised estimate of the 1939 honey crop shows a production of 28,856,100 pounds. While this crop was smaller by 9,053,800 pounds or 24 per cent than the record crop of 37,909,900 pounds in 1938, it was somewhat larger than the average production of 26,860,000 pounds during the previous five years 1933-37. Although numbers of beekeepers and colonies of bees were greater in 1939, a drop of 25 pounds in the average yield per hive reduced the total output below that of 1938. This was due to a late cold spring followed by hot dry weather in July and August, which considerably curtailed the honey flow. In Northern Saskatchewan, however, crop conditions were most favourable and a big crop of good quality honey was harvested. As a result, production for this province was increased by more than 50 per cent from the record crop of the previous year, but in all other provinces except Prince Edward Island smaller crops were harvested.

Production of honey in 1939, totalling 28,856,100 pounds, was distributed by provinces in order of magnitude as follows, with the estimates for the 1938 crop within brackets: Ontario 11,500,000 (16,300,000); Manitoba 5,400,000 (9,539,900); Quebec 4,355,400 (5,108,200); Saskatchewan 4,262,600 (2,794,200); British Columbia 1,004,900 (1,584,100); New Brunswick 82,800 (90,100); Nova Scotia 60,000 (64,100); Prince Edward Island 12,400 (11,300).

The production of beeswax was estimated at 351,300 pounds in 1939 as compared with the revised estimate of 463,000 pounds in 1938.

Table I.

Numbers of Beekeepers and Hives, Production of Honey, and Value of Honey
and Beeswax in Canada, 1930 to 1939.

	Beekeepers	Colonies	- Honey -			Total value of honey and wax
			Average production per hive	Total production	Average price paid to producers	
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	cents per lb.	\$
1930	24,200	362,100	68	24,486,500	8.3	2,133,600
1931	24,000	350,500	72	25,106,400	8.0	2,095,200
1932	24,600	349,300	61	21,169,300	7.5	1,663,200
1933	23,100	328,200	77	25,287,800	8.6	2,256,900
1934	24,300	328,400	82	27,062,800	9.2	2,574,700
1935	24,800	357,000	75	26,814,800	8.3	2,337,500
1936	26,300	370,800	86	31,938,100	8.5	2,822,900
1937	27,900	386,400	60	23,196,600	9.0	2,163,700
1938	27,300	394,000	96	37,909,900	7.8	3,057,200
1939	28,000	406,000	71	28,856,100	9.1	2,726,700

Table 2.

Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax, in Canada,
by Provinces, 1939 as compared with 1938.

Province	Honey					Value of Honey and Wax	
	Bee-keepers	Colonies	Average production per hive	Total production	Average price paid producers	Total Value	
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	cents per lb.	\$	\$
1939							
Prince Edward Island.	10	190	67	12,400	10.0	1,300	1,300
Nova Scotia	260	1,350	44	60,000	15.0	9,000	9,200
New Brunswick	420	1,800	46	82,800	13.0	10,800	11,100
Quebec	7,000	72,690	60	4,355,400	11.0	479,100	497,200
Ontario	8,200	205,000	56	11,500,000	9.0	1,035,000	1,075,000
Manitoba	3,240	58,000	94	5,400,000	7.5	405,000	418,500
Saskatchewan	4,180	28,000	153	4,262,600	8.5	363,100	376,400
Alberta	1,590	18,000	121	2,178,000	8.0	176,400	184,000
British Columbia	3,070	21,020	48	1,004,900	15.0	150,700	154,000
Canada	27,970	406,050	71	28,856,100	9.1	2,630,400	2,726,700
1938							
Prince Edward Island.	10	205	55	11,300	11.0	1,200	1,200
Nova Scotia	260	1,350	47	64,100	15.0	9,600	10,100
New Brunswick	400	1,700	53	90,100	12.0	10,800	11,100
Quebec	6,800	70,100	73	5,108,200	10.0	510,800	533,700
Ontario	8,300	204,000	80	16,300,000	7.0	1,141,000	1,189,900
Manitoba	3,360	56,650	168	9,539,900	6.5	620,100	639,200
Saskatchewan	4,000	23,780	118	2,794,200	8.7	242,100	249,100
Alberta	1,090	15,230	159	2,418,000	7.0	169,300	178,200
British Columbia	3,080	21,020	75	1,584,100	15.0	237,600	244,700
Canada	27,300	394,035	96	37,909,900	7.8	2,942,500	3,057,200

PRICES

The average price received by producers for the 1939 honey crop is estimated at 9.1 cents per pound as compared with 7.8 cents for the 1938 crop, an increase of 1.3 cents per pound. The total value of the 1939 production including beeswax, for which prices offered are sharply higher than in 1938, is estimated at \$2,726,700, as compared with \$3,057,200 in 1938. This represents a decrease of 11 per cent in the total value of apicultural production as compared with a decline in volume of 24 per cent.

Average prices paid to producers for the 1939 honey crop in cents per pound, with comparative estimates for the 1938 crop within brackets, follow: Prince Edward Island 10 (11); Nova Scotia 15 (15); New Brunswick 13 (12); Quebec 11 (10); Ontario 9 (7); Manitoba 7.5 (6.5); Saskatchewan 8.5 (8.7); Alberta 8 (7); British Columbia 15 (15).

The total value of honey and wax, estimated at \$2,726,700 for the 1939 crop, was distributed by provinces in order of magnitude as follows, with the corresponding estimates for 1938 within brackets: Ontario \$1,075,000 (\$1,189,900); Quebec \$497,200 (\$533,700); Manitoba \$418,500 (\$639,200); Saskatchewan \$376,400 (\$249,100); Alberta \$184,000 (\$178,200); British Columbia \$154,000 (\$244,700); New Brunswick \$11,100 (\$11,100); Nova Scotia \$9,200 (\$10,100); Prince Edward Island \$1,300 (\$1,200).

MARKETING

Prices were low and markets dull in the early fall of 1939. Shortly after the declaration of war in September, honey was placed on the luxury list by the British Government and import licenses for Canadian honey were refused. The situation created by this embargo was alleviated somewhat by the shortage of retail supplies of sugar in Canada, and stocks were reduced considerably by the exceptionally large sales of honey (particularly supplies packed in domestic containers), although prices remained low. When import restrictions on Empire honey into the United Kingdom were removed in November, prices on both the Canadian and United Kingdom markets rose sharply in response to the heavy demand. Quotations on local markets have increased from as low as 5 cents per pound in the early fall of 1939 to 11 cents in March 1940. On the United Kingdom markets, wholesale prices have ranged from 65/- to 90/- per cwt. (approximately 13 to 18 cents per pound Canadian) and import prices from 49/- per cwt. (equivalent to 10 cents per pound Canadian) in the early stages to as high as 82/- (16 cents Canadian) on more recent sales.

Sales for export, particularly to the United Kingdom, have been heavy and with supplies on local markets practically exhausted, the upward trend in prices will probably continue. Owing to the scarcity of supplies on local markets, there has been an increase in imports of honey from the United States since the beginning of the year.

Exports for the eight months ended March 1940 have amounted to 7,340,691 pounds valued at \$725,690 as compared with 4,205,122 pounds valued at \$323,653 for the corresponding period ended March 1939. Of the total exports during this period, 6,652,574 pounds, or 91 per cent, went to the United Kingdom as compared with 3,600,055 pounds (86 per cent) in 1937-38.

Reports from the United Kingdom indicate larger than usual importations of Canadian honey in consumer packages, approximately 14,000 cases having arrived in the United Kingdom this season. Canadian consumer packages are finding their way to the retail trade in larger quantities than usual, due to the somewhat increased demand for honey, the shortage of glass, the tendency on the part of the consumers to store food stuffs, the rationing of sugar and the relatively lower cost per pound of honey distributed in these packages. Canadian consumer packages, particularly 2's, may continue to gain in favour with consumers. Sales of buckwheat honey, principally for manufacturing, and to a lesser extent for blending, have been reported in the United Kingdom. Prices are as high as 50/- per cwt. (approximately 10 cents per pound Canadian) for this product.

Table 3.

Exports of Honey from Canada, for the Crop Years ended July 31, 1935 to 1939 and for the Eight Months ended March 31, 1940.

<u>Year ended July 31</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
	lb.	\$
1935	2,300,572	210,006
1936	2,228,429	170,019
1937	2,668,581	225,387
1938	2,842,923	240,539
1939	5,511,988	413,112
Eight months ended March 31, 1940	7,340,691	725,690

Table 4.

Exports of Honey from Canada, by Months, August to March, 1937-38 to 1939-40.

	1937-38		1938-39		1939-40	
	Total Exports	To United Kingdom	Total Exports	To United Kingdom	Total Exports	To United Kingdom
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
August	54,501	53,995	203,823	186,005	107,711	104,087
September	201,491	152,423	608,280	570,305	191,155	36,243
October	412,787	275,674	758,454	678,337	173,375	11,901
November	817,790	558,383	941,560	823,821	264,341	54,790
December	468,967	429,996	608,584	452,235	1,579,045	1,423,012
January	318,706	316,299	536,913	498,979	2,448,217	2,446,191
February	131,619	77,093	130,607	109,760	1,085,298	1,085,182
March	135,582	30,080	416,901	280,613	1,491,549	1,491,168
Total	2,541,443	1,893,943	4,205,122	3,600,055	7,340,691	6,652,574

Imports into Canada during the first eight months of the 1939-40 crop year have totalled 881,997 pounds valued at \$53,916 of which 873,521 pounds were from the United States. This compares with 23,825 pounds valued at \$3,560 of which only 15,517 pounds were from the United States in the corresponding eight months ended March 1939.

Table 5.

Imports of Honey into Canada for the Crop Years ended July 31, 1935 to 1939, and for the Eight Months ended March 31, 1940.

Year ended July 31	Quantity	Value
	lb.	\$
1935	47,334	3,730
1936	29,744	2,365
1937	32,510	3,790
1938	131,059	12,661
1939	35,510	4,880
Eight months ended March 31, 1940	881,997	53,916

Table 6.

Imports of Honey into Canada, by Months, August to March, 1937-38 to 1939-40.

	1937-38		1938-39		1939-40	
	Total Imports	From United States	Total Imports	From United States	Total Imports	From United States
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
August	8,416	1,800	13	-	4,748	229
September	6,439	36	2,812	144	2,739	474
October	71,757	69,386	8,490	5,895	1,124	1,076
November	8,270	7,972	5,423	5,094	3,125	2,378
December	4,600	4,528	2,793	450	702	70
January	6,430	5,794	720	360	274,682	274,682
February	8,506	8,506	-	-	111,916	111,916
March	2,626	335	3,574	3,574	482,961	482,696
Total	117,044	98,357	23,825	15,517	881,997	873,521



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