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### PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF THE 1941 HONEY CROP

Ottawa, April 30, 1942.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in cooperation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues today a report on the production and marketing of the 1941 honey crop.

#### SUMMARY

The second estimate of the 1941 honey crop, 27,472,100 pounds, is 3.8 million pounds or 16 per cent larger than the 1940 crop of 23,671,300 pounds. Although records were established in 1941 in numbers of beekeepers and colonies, yields were relatively low, with the result that the crop was little more than average in size. The honey, however, was generally of good quality.

Practically the entire crop has been marketed at an average price to producers of 11.5 cents per pound which is one cent per pound higher than the average price received for the 1940 crop. The total value of honey and wax produced in 1941 amounted to \$3,276,200 as compared with \$2,583,500, the revised value of the 1940 crop. Some expansion in the industry is expected in the 1942 season.

#### Production

The 1941 Canadian honey crop totalled 27,472,100 pounds as compared with 23,671,300 pounds in 1940, an increase of 3.8 million pounds or 16 per cent. Production was slightly higher than the 10-year (1930-39) average of 26.7 million pounds. Although numbers of beekeepers and colonies were the highest on record, the average yield was only 67 pounds per colony. Production exceeded that of the previous year in three of the main producing provinces, in Ontario by 26 per cent; Manitoba 35 per cent and Alberta 40 per cent. These increases were partially offset by declines in the other provinces except in New Brunswick where the crop was of about the same volume as in 1940. The honey produced was, on the whole, of good average quality.

The distribution of the 1941 honey crop (27,472,100 pounds) follows by provinces in order of magnitude with the revised estimates for 1940 in brackets: Ontario 12,000,000 (9,500,000); Manitoba 4,970,000 (3,669,900); Alberta 3,120,000 (2,222,000); Quebec 3,042,600 (3,112,300); Saskatchewan 2,966,500 (3,682,000); British Columbia 1,169,000 (1,264,000); New Brunswick 124,800 (124,000); Nova Scotia 67,000 (78,200); Prince Edward Island 12,200 (18,900).

The quantity of beeswax produced in 1941 is estimated at 320,000 pounds as compared with the revised estimate of 307,000 pounds produced in 1940.

#### Prices and Marketing

The 1941 crop moved readily at an average price to the producer of 11.5 cents per pound, which is one cent per pound higher than the average of 10.5 cents received for the 1940 crop. The total value of the 1941 crop, including beeswax for which prices averaged 39 cents per pound as compared with 33 cents in 1940, is estimated at \$3,276,200. This represents an increase of \$692,700 or 26.8 per cent over the 1940 crop which was valued at \$2,583,500.

Approximately 13 per cent of the sales of the 1941 crop have been for export, which is practically the same proportion as in the previous year. Imports into the United Kingdom market are still on a quota basis, of which Canada's share for the period ending August 31, 1942 is approximately 4.5 million pounds. This quota has been partially filled at prices close to the maximum set for Canadian bulk honey at 65/- per cwt. c.i.f. (equivalent to approximately 13 cents per pound Canadian at current official rates). Owing to scarcity of supplies on local markets and heavy domestic demand it is doubtful whether the entire quota can be filled. Despite the increased demand, however, price movements in 1942 will be subject to the limitations of the price ceiling regulations established by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Table 1

Numbers of Beekeepers and Hives, Production of Honey and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada, 1932 to 1941

	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.	\$
1932 .....	24,800	349,300	61	21,169,300	7.5	1,663,200
1933 .....	23,100	328,200	77	25,237,800	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	28,873,100	8.7	2,615,700
1940 .....	27,200	398,500	59	23,671,300	10.5	2,583,500
1941 .....	28,200	409,900	67	27,472,100	11.5	3,276,200

Table 2

Production and Value of Honey and Beeswax in Canada  
By Provinces, 1941 as Compared with 1940

Province	Bee-keepers	Colonies	HONEY			Total Value	Value of Honey and Wax
			Average Production per Hive	Total Production	Average Price Paid Producers		
	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	cents per lb.	\$	\$
<b>1940</b>							
P. E. Island ...	30	220	88	18,900	11.0	2,100	2,200
Nova Scotia ....	300	1,310	60	78,200	15.0	11,700	12,000
New Brunswick ..	450	2,000	62	124,000	14.0	17,400	17,800
Quebec .....	5,680	73,680	42	3,112,300	12.0	373,500	395,600
Ontario .....	8,000	190,000	50	9,500,000	9.5	902,500	943,500
Manitoba .....	2,950	53,580	68	3,669,900	9.0	330,300	339,500
Saskatchewan ...	4,470	34,470	107	3,682,000	10.5	385,100	400,000
Alberta .....	2,200	22,000	101	2,222,000	11.0	244,400	253,400
British Columbia	3,070	21,280	59	1,264,000	17.0	214,900	219,500
CANADA ....	27,150	398,540	59	23,671,300	10.5	2,481,900	2,583,500
<b>1941</b>							
P. E. Island ...	30	190	65	12,200	12.0	1,500	1,600
Nova Scotia ....	310	1,340	50	67,000	16.0	10,700	11,000
New Brunswick ..	570	2,400	52	124,800	14.0	17,500	18,200
Quebec .....	5,680	77,080	39	3,042,600	14.0	431,800	451,700
Ontario .....	7,800	200,000	60	12,000,000	10.5	1,260,000	1,312,800
Manitoba .....	2,580	45,180	110	4,970,000	10.0	497,000	516,900
Saskatchewan ...	4,820	37,680	79	2,966,500	11.7	347,900	359,600
Alberta .....	2,400	24,000	130	3,120,000	12.0	374,400	389,300
British Columbia	4,000	22,020	53	1,169,000	18.0	210,400	215,100
CANADA ....	28,190	409,890	67	27,472,100	11.5	3,151,200	3,276,200



Trade

Customs exports of Canadian honey during the calendar year 1941 totalled 4,113,578 pounds valued at \$465,873 as compared with 10,780,498 pounds valued at \$1,237,285 in 1940. Exports during the first eight months (August - March) of the crop year 1941-42 have amounted to 4,120,214 pounds.

Imports were 208,015 pounds with a value of \$11,216 in 1941 and 2,768,566 pounds valued at \$159,271 in 1940 (calendar years). Package bees to the value of \$202,366 were imported into Canada during 1941 as compared with \$219,058 in 1940.

Outlook for the 1942 Season

Increased production together with a stronger demand is indicated for the 1942 honey season. Bees came through the winter in from fair to good condition, particularly in Ontario where the condition of bees in winter quarters is reported as exceptionally good. Numbers of beekeepers and colonies in Canada in 1941 were the highest on record. Further increases ranging from 5 to 25 per cent in the numbers of beekeepers and 5 to 10 per cent in the numbers of colonies in apiaries already established are predicted in most provinces. Orders of package bees for restocking have been heavy, due, in part, to the greater demand for alternative commodities to replace sugar. In Manitoba, there will probably be fewer apiaries operated, despite an increase in the number of over-wintered colonies. Feed supplies were reported to be low in this province in the spring of 1942.

The United States Honey Report

The semi-monthly honey report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on April 15, reads in part as follows:-

"Many package bee men are already booked up to capacity by the heavy demand from northern United States and from Canada. Prospects for the coming season are generally encouraging, though much depends upon the development of colonies and honey plants during the next few weeks. Many beekeepers appear optimistic about securing a crop of honey larger than that of last year, and are buying supplies, and repairing old equipment, with that idea in mind.

"Winter losses appear to be abnormally high in the Mountain States, but so far reports do not indicate excessive losses elsewhere. However, many colonies in almost all sections are reported extremely short of stores and heavier feeding than usual will apparently be necessary if colonies are to come through satisfactorily. Securing of sugar for feeding has been made easier for beekeepers by the issuance by the Sugar Section of the War Production Board on March 26 of a further amendment to Order M-55. This makes it possible for beekeepers to obtain sugar for their bees upon filing with any sugar supplier a statement of the extent of their need, the number of colonies they have, and the amount of sugar available at the moment."



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