

In the Kootenays, bee-keeping would appear to be in its infancy. Only one report has been received from East Kootenay, the writer being a resident of Cranbrook. He has secured as high as 100 pounds of extracted honey a hive in a good season, and altogether seems satisfied with the returns.

In West Kootenay, Revelstoke reports 40 to 50 sections per hive; Proctor a little more; while a Kootenay bee keeper with ten years' experience gets 50 sections, adding that his source is entirely from the clover in the town, there being no nectar bearing plants in the vicinity. One apiarist in Revelstoke believes there is sufficient pasturage for 200 colonies in the neighbourhood.

On Vancouver Island, bee-keeping has been carried on for about thirty years, and at present there is an almost continuous chain of hives from Victoria to Comox. The general climatic conditions are rather similar throughout the entire line, but the advent of the spring blossoms is much later by a few weeks in Nanaimo than in the south end of the Island. There is, however, great unanimity in the statement of returns, which, briefly put, is 25 sections per hive, or 40 pounds of extracted honey. There is also general agreement that a few hives make an interesting side line that yields a moderate profit, but there is no present possibility of bee-keeping on an extensive scale with any hope of financial success. The climatic conditions are very similar to those described as existing in the New Westminster region: cool weather in spring, and cool nights in June, this month being the season of the honey flow.

From the Fraser River, in Yale District, two reports were received. At Lytton the principal source is alfalfa, the yield being 50 pounds extracted a hive. At Agassiz the source is clover and fruit blossoms, giving 25 pounds surplus in a good season.

Speaking broadly, the dry belt region of the Province is too arid at the coast districts for the purposes of bee-keeping.

SEASONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

In the southern part of Vancouver Island the bees have occasional flights in January and February, but it is not until about the 20th of the latter month that they fly freely, and by that time the willow is in bloom, so that pollen is often carried in during the last week. Nanaimo reports free flight early in March, but Comox is later by a few weeks. Willow is plentiful in all regions.

From the Delta up to Mission free flight is usual in the first week of March. At Revelstoke it is after the middle of the month. All along the Fraser River willow is reported as plentiful.

In the Okanagan and other dry belt regions the date of free flight varies from the 1st to the 15th of March. At Vernon the first pollen is carried in about March 12th. However, from several districts of the arid region there comes a complaint of the lack of pollen in the spring, so that it will be probably advisable to provide a substitute in the form of pea-flour, according to the methods described in a later chapter on feeding. In contrast, Rosland reports a plentiful supply of pollen.

In most regions dandelions and fruit blossoms follow the willow; in fact, one rancher wants to know how to get rid of the first named, a rather unusual request from a bee-keeper. The writer would like to oblige with a remedy, but though he worked with the problem for several years and consulted many experts, the only conclusion he arrived at was this: the more thoroughly he mowed the lawn, the quicker it developed into a dandelion paradise. Therefore, like a child, he learned to love the glorious display of yellow; as a bee-keeper, he welcomed the blossoms.

Clover and snowberry bloom round about Victoria about June 1st, but it is not until about the 20th of the month that the bees begin to get surplus honey. As fruit blossoms are over about the last week in May, there is frequently quite a dearth of nectar