

Queries and Replies

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

Bee-Keeping for Profit.

QUERY No. 287.—What amount of honey do you consider each colony should yield, taking one year with another, to make bee-keeping give a *fair* profit for the money and time expended, estimating increase at 50 per cent.? I ask this question after reading the replies to Query 283.—A McJ.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Fifty pounds.

B. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.—Fifty pounds spring count.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Say 50 to 60 pounds.

C. W. POST, MURRAY.—Ninety pounds extracted, 50 lbs. comb.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY—I think this is a question the querist can best answer himself.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I should say that depends on the cost of producing it, and the price it brings.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—If we were sure of twenty-five pounds of comb or forty of extracted, I think bee-keeping would be profitable.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—Forty pounds of extracted honey per colony, spring count, providing you winter your bees without losing more than 5 per cent.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I suppose a good deal depends on the time and money the man expends. Fifty pounds to the colony will satisfy me without increase.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—All you can coax out of the bees. I started out on the basis of 20 lbs. comb honey, but have averaged about 4 times that during the last 16 years.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS, ONT.—The above query is a funny one. We will say that one man can handle 100 colonies, and do it right one year with another; out of them he wants to make \$500; he will be safe at 35 lbs per colony if he can sell his increase at \$5.00 each.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONT.—The number of colonies would have much to do with the required yield per colony. The greater the number of

colonies, the smaller the average yield to give equal profits. Fifty pounds per colony from 50 colonies or more, would be better than some other branches of business, but would be a very slow process of getting rich.

JAS. HEDDOW, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Who can tell? What one man would call a "*fair* profit," another would not, owing to difference in different men's circumstances and ideas of reasonable expenditure in life. Another thing, some bee-keepers get twice the price for their surplus honey that others do; and again, some use such appliances and methods that their surplus costs them twice as much as that of others.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—It depends largely on cost and expense. If 100 per cent. can be gained, I don't know of any business that will pay better. A profit of \$8.00 per colony ought to be enough to give satisfaction. \$5.00 in many locations should pay well. As compared with farming in my section of the United States a profit of \$5.00 per colony, will give better returns than can be gained from farming generally, and will prove almost as remunerative as stock raising, unless one is "inside the ring" and can get fancy prices.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, Ky.—At the present prices for honey as I find it in my market, I could do very well at 33 1/3 pounds per colony. Last summer was what I call an average season, and I got about 66 2/3 pounds per colony. My sales of comb honey averaged about 16 cents per pound, and honey extracted about 12 1/2c. or 13c. You can make your own figures in accordance with the price you can get for your honey. Some years I may get 100 lbs. per colony, and some years—well, an unknown quantity—mighty little; hence the *average* honey crop is a foggy guess.

BY THE EDITOR.—When this question came before me my quick reply was 50 lbs. of extracted honey per colony, spring count, and I find my ideas are confirmed by most of those who answer the question. Some of the gentlemen are very modest, however, and are satisfied with even less.

Separators.

QUERY No. 288.—(1) In producing comb honey, which is in most general use, a super with separators or without? (2) Which do you prefer and use?—B. L.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—With separators. (2) Separators.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—(1) I don't know. (2) I like separators.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—(1) I should say without. (2) No separators.