

fostering care of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition the products of the dairy and apiary, in such quantities and of such unrivalled excellence, that it may truly claim to be the Western successor to Palestine of old, in being, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from out Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

### LOSING QUEENS WHILE MATING—QUEEN CELLS ON DRONE BROOD.

QUERY No. 36.—I have lost so many young queens after they were hatched, (I suppose in leaving the hive for the purpose of finding a mate) that I would like to ask you the best way of remedying the loss and would like to have the query answered in the question department of the JOURNAL. My hives are six feet apart from centre to centre, painted alike, and I fear the young queens often mistake their hives on returning, and thus get killed. Are queen cells formed by natural swarming, surrounded by drone brood, generally as good as those formed on worker comb, or are they likely to be from drone eggs? Is the difference in such cells well marked?—A. G.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—To the first would say, we lost one year a number of young queens as we supposed by bee martins. After shooting a number we had no trouble.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—My hives are less than six feet apart from centre to centre and I seldom lose a young queen on that account. I have never observed closely enough to be able to answer the second part of the question.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—When hives are painted all of a color I lay a board or stick of wood in front of every other hive unless there are trees or shrubbery near a part of the hive, and in this way very rarely lose a queen. 2nd. A queen never deposits a drone egg in a queen cell no matter where such a cell is built.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—I would also like a satisfactory answer to the first part of this "query." My hives are also six feet apart and painted alike, but am quite sure the loss of queens is not from returning to the

wrong hive, [for I have often seen them leave the hive and watched for their return, and have never seen but one return to the wrong hive. Have had no experience with the latter part of the query.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Have the hives facing different directions; have the young queens ready for mating, before as after the swarming season. A young queen will sometimes go with a swarm if both are out at the same time.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Hives six feet apart are all right. If drones are few, and birds plenty that may account for the loss. Our hives are only six feet apart and we very rarely lose a queen in mating. The queen cell will be of no use unless it has an impregnated egg in it. Then it will be all right no matter what cells are around it.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Instead of having the hives uniformly six feet apart from centre to centre, I should prefer to have them in pairs, the hives of each pair as close together as they can be worked with the same space between the pairs that you now have between the hives. This will give you more hives on the same ground with much less liability to have queens go into wrong hives.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—In all large apiaries where stocks are close together more or less of this loss occurs. Always have larvæ and eggs supplied to such hives, bearing in mind that such loss is likely to occur. If you wish to reduce your loss in this respect to a minimum. Place your stocks widely apart. I do not care for queens hatched from cells surrounded in this way. They frequently never mature—drone eggs probably.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—I do not think your queens got lost in returning. My hives are about three and a quarter feet from centre to centre and I have not lost (if my memory serves me well) one queen this year before commencing to lay, but several have disappeared after. I place land marks at every fifth hive. Queen cells built under the swarming impulse, are, so I believe, just as good on drone comb as anywhere. I never knew bees preparing to swarm make the mistake you mention. I can see no difference either in cells or queens.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—My hives are not more than six feet apart, and are all painted alike, yet I do not meet with severe losses of queens. When clearing off the ground for my apiary I left quite a number