

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.

Spring Packing.

QUERY No. 285.—Will it *pay* the bee-keeper, who winters inside, to make an outside case for each hive, and pack bees for a couple of months in spring, and say one month in fall before putting in cellar,—allowing that each case costs 50c?—A. L.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I don't know. I doubt it.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I couldn't tell without trying. Quite likely it would.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH. Yes, for spring. I doubt if it will pay to pack in fall.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.—Probably it will, but the cost and labor are too much for me.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—It won't pay me. I have no time to spare in packing and unpacking bees.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS, ONT.—I think not; if I went to that trouble and expense I would winter them out doors.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—"Yes," in many localities it will pay. It makes extra work, but you will see extra results.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY.—Yes, it will certainly pay in Canada, and I should think in the northern and some of the central States.

C. W. POST, MURRAY.—It might pay if your apiary is located in a cold, windy locality; while in a warm, sheltered place, I doubt if it would pay.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Yes, but it will pay better to use chaff hives the year around. I've mine for wintering in the cellar, and like them there nearly as well as out doors.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONT.—I think it would have paid me more than 100 per cent. last spring if I had done it. I believe it would pay, one season with another, if the cases cost \$1.00 each.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Yes, for spring, protection, but don't pack at all in the fall, when there is no brood. As soon as your bees need protection at all, in the fall, set them into your special repository.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—It would not pay me. I have too much other work, nevertheless. I believe it pays in the spring to have some packing around them, or use chaff hives altogether. See answer to 286.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY.—Yes, because you could use the cases for a good many years. But if you live in this part of Ontario, I would advise you to leave them packed on their summer stands and not take them in the cellar at all. Double-walled hives, made of 3/8 in. lumber and packed with planer shavings suit me best.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—I have never practiced inside wintering, but judging from the literature on the subject covering a long period of years, I should most assuredly say, no. I can't see how, or in what manner anything can be gained by so doing. In fact, if the written evidence of the past, which is the actual experience of the many, is worth anything practically, the plan will work mischief and not good.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, N. Y.—It would not pay in my locality, but it would most probably pay in a cold climate. The way to demonstrate a proposition of this nature is to try it. In this moderate climate, I mean the climate of the Southern middle State of the United States of America. Bees winter better in common single-walled hives than they do in any sort of a packed hive. The reason of this is the sun shiny days warm up the bees and give them a chance to change position without loss of life. The sun cannot warm a double-walled hive.

BY THE EDITOR.—In a season such as last was, I should say it would have paid well, and we are now making cases, which we intend to use the coming season, in our own apiary. We will be able to speak more definitely about the first of July next, as to whether it pays us or not.

Best Protection In Spring.

QUERY No. 286.—What is the best method of spring protection for bees in S. W. Hives that are wintering in cellar? I expect some of them to be weak owing to queens stopping laying early last season, and I want to prevent spring dwindling.—R. H. S., Bracebridge.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—The best spring protection I have tried is to keep 'em in the cellar.

PROFESSOR A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—As suggested in 285, use an outside case, and pack with chaff, straw, shavings or excelsior.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—The best protection I know of is the cellar itself. That is, leave them in till the weather is warm and flowers are open.