

Queries —AND— Answers

[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may be sent direct to Mr. R. H. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

Question No. 1.—Kindly inform me through the Canadian Bee Journal if bee-keeping has been tested in Southern Alberta, and if so, with what results?—E. A. J., Queenhill, Ont.

Answer—I am not aware that bees have been tried in Southern Alberta, but I have no doubt they would succeed if there are any bluffs of timber that would afford shelters, and which, as in Assiniboia, will provide a greater variety of bee forage. In 1884 I tried bees on the open prairie in Assiniboia, but found the winds were too much for them at times. After moving them to the shelter of the bluffs they built up well and gave a good surplus in section honey, which took first prize at the fair held at Indian Head.

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Question No. 2.—Would be pleased if you could give me a plan or description of a convenient extracting and store room for handling 200 colonies of bees, run for extracted honey. Barrels will be used mostly for storing.—E. A. J., Queenhill, Ont.

Answer—We find it best to build an extracting room on the south side of the apiary, with windows on the north side so arranged that the apiarist has a view over the yard when inside. It has been said to be a good plan to build a honey house one-half larger than you think large enough. I would think a building 20x30 feet and 8 feet high inside would give ample room for

work and storing space, and if it is proposed to winter the bees in the cellar, it would be a good place for a cellar under the honey room. A building for this purpose should have screen doors and windows fitted with a simple bee escape, and should be accessible for a team, so that supplies may be hauled to and honey from the apiary. Material and cost of such a building would depend on local conditions.

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Question No. 3.—I am 70 years old, and do not feel like removing the old hive away when swarming. Will you please tell me the best way to work them?—W. M. S., Madoc, Ont.

Answer—If you are producing extracted honey, by giving the bees plenty of super room before they get the swarming fever swarming may be prevented to a great extent. Another way is to divide the colony when they have queen cells started, but it is not a good plan unless increase of colonies is wanted. If they are run for comb honey, the swarms may be hived and placed on a new stand, and any sections that may be on the old colony may be placed on the swarm. When no after swarms are desired the queen cells should be cut out on the seventh, or not later than the eighth, day, leaving one of the best cells to requeen the colony; or a young laying queen may be introduced if a change of stock is desired, after removing all queen cells. If the old colony is still populous, a super should be given them, and they will rarely swarm again the same season.

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Question No. 4.—Is it advisable to keep bees in the cellar as late in the spring as possible if they can be kept quiet?—Peterboro.

Answer—If the weather was fine I would set bees on their summer stands about the time the first pollen could be gathered—about the first week in April in your locality.

St. Thomas, Ont.

R. H. S.