

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.

Best way to Learn Bee-Keeping.

QUERY No. 321.—What is the best way to learn bee-keeping, if I intend to combine small fruits which I understand with bee-keeping; capital being about \$1,500. Fruit-growing will be the main business probably?—F. A.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—See Answer the query 319.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—See reply to 319.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Buy a few bees, get a good bee book and commence in a small way and work up to your desire.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—Get a few colonies and see how you get along with them. Of course you must read or you might better let the bees alone.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—If fruit growing is to be the principal business, get a few colonies and learn by reading, observation and experience. Visit some good bee-keeper and get points.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Buy two colonies and the leading books and papers on bees. Read, and put in practice what you read. Then your bees will increase with your knowledge so that when you have 100 colonies, you will be master of the situation.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—My advice is, either let bee-keeping alone, or understand it, before you embark in it. The cheapest and best way to get apicultural knowledge, is to spend one season in the large apiary of some well known successful honey producer, who markets honey by the ton. The small apiery is not in it.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Go to some good bee-keeper who does not know much about small fruits, but wants to learn. Then you teach him small fruits and he will teach you bees. If you cannot find a man of that kind go anyway and either work your way or pay your way and learn. If you cannot do either, begin with one or two colonies and learn by experience and study. These are the only ways I think of just now.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—The best way to learn bee-keeping would be to "serve your time" with some practical apiarist, but in your case it would undoubtedly suit you better to buy a few nuclei early in spring and build them up to full colonies. If you make fruit raising your main business, I think you would do well to run your bees for extracted honey, tier up the top stories. Extracting the honey when you have leisure. If you understand small fruits, you probably know that you can make more clean cash out of strawberries than anything you could plant.

R. F. HOLTERMAN, BRANTFORD, ONT.—If you want to commence without experience and with more than three to five colonies, you make a mistake unless you have some one in the vicinity to whom you can go for advice at all times. Take at least two good bee-papers, and a standard work on bees.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG.—If bee-keeping is to be a second hand interest in your pursuit, first get a few colonies of bees in well adjusted hives, and learn the business by study and practice. You can gain a great deal by visiting some well managed apiary when you can see how things are manipulated. I guess that you will not progress very fast when interested in some other business, more than in your bee interest. To succeed in bee culture it requires all of ones thought to keep up with the times.

D. A. JONES, BEETON, ONT.—Subscribe for several bee journals, and secure some good works on bees, such as—Cooks Manual, and A. B. C. in Bee Culture. Do not fail to spend about \$10.00 in bee literature, and be sure, in order that you do not waste your money, to read it so frequently and thoroughly, that you understand it beyond question. Then get a few colonies of bees and commence on a small scale, and in one season, you no doubt will be able to manage bees fairly well. If you wish to go on a larger scale, get some experienced bee-keeper to assist you for one season with your bees and fruit, and after that we think you could manage yourself.

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