

cause if possible. At this writing—Aug. 11th—the increase in colonies has been good in the vicinity of Trenton. I know of several who have had five swarms from one, with a good supply of honey. In a year or two the old bee-keepers will have good stocks again.

J. H. PECK, Sect'y.

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 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.

COMB BUILDING.

QUERY No. 30.—What is the best way to get worker comb built in brood chamber, *when increase by division is practised*? or how get the bees, in the circumstances named, (i. e., when do not allow swarming) to make comb cheaper than you can buy foundation? —J. C.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I don't think I can do it. Small colonies are more apt to make worker comb than strong ones.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Give them young queens and crowd the bees on as few frames as possible.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Comb cannot be made cheaper than foundation, when the latter can be bought for \$1 per lb.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Use full sheets of foundation. My bees won't make comb as cheap as I can buy foundation.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—This will require very careful experimenting to ascertain the correct facts. I use full sheets of foundation, but to say it is cheaper I cannot.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—My opinion most decidedly is that with the most skillful manipulation you cannot get bees to construct worker comb cheaper than you can buy foundation.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—Keep all colonies, made by dividing, strong, and furnish them with a young queen. I have not been able to get such comb made cheaper than I can buy foundation.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Natural swarms

will do better at building combs than when divided, but if you practice dividing your bees, by all means I would say give them combs or foundation. Don't think any one can do it and have nice worker comb built.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—To the first part of the question I would answer, by using full frames of foundation. To the second part, would answer that I do not believe there is any cheaper way than by using foundation.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—If we arrange for comb building, by giving empty frames, and make our colonies rather weak, we can easily secure worker comb. Strong, crowded colonies make drone comb, not weak ones.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—As soon as the made colony have started comb building in the frames, put on sections so they can build store comb in them which is always drone comb. If drone foundation is used in the section scarce a bit of drone comb will be built below.

BY THE EDITOR.—It is a very difficult matter in our opinion to get them to build worker comb cheaper than you can buy foundation, at least starters. We find it makes considerable difference whether the person is running for comb or extracted honey as to the quantity of foundation that may be used. We have colonies containing young queens build most of our natural worker comb. We find when nuclei are very strong in bees and have each young fertile queens that they have no disposition to build drone comb until after they have plenty of worker. As the frames of worker comb are built they may be lifted out and given to old colonies, or to colonies containing old queens that refuse to build worker comb, and sealed or hatching brood returned in their stead, thus keeping up strong nuclei with a scarcity of worker comb, which they supply very rapidly. Very large quantities of worker comb may be secured by pursuing this course, yet we do not think that it can be produced cheaper than foundation.