

Bees on Shares.

QUESTION.—“A wants “B” to take his bees on shares, “B” to do all the work, find the necessary supplies, sell the honey and hand over to “A” his share of the net profits at the close of the season. What should “A’s” share consist of?

Haldimand.

ANSWER.—“A” supplies the bees, “B” provides the necessary supplies, does the work, and leaves the colonies in proper condition for wintering. We would say let “A” and “B” share equally in the surplus honey and in the increase. If “A” wishes his share in cash let “B” retain the honey at regular wholesale prices, and his share of the increase at a valuation agreed upon at the beginning of the season.—[Ed.]

We copy the following from 1899 edition “A. B. C. of Bee Culture,” page 50:

There are cases, doubtless, where it is advantageous to both parties to



KEEPING BEES ON SHARES.

let bees out on shares; but as a general thing I would advise owning your bees, even though it be but a single colony, before you commence to build up an apiary. It almost

always happens that one of the parties is dissatisfied; and, as is frequently the case with such partnership arrangements, both the parties have been wronged, to hear their story for it.

I believe it is customary for one of the partners to furnish the bees, and the other to do the work; at the end of the season, every thing is divided equally. If new hives, Italian queens, etc., are to be used, the expense is equally divided. The division of stock is usually made as soon as the honey season is over, and each party takes his chances of wintering. To prevent any misunderstanding, I would advise that the whole agreement be put in writing, and that whenever something turns up for which no provision has been made, some agreement be made in regard to it, and that this be put in writing also. Instead of inquiring what other folks do, arrange the matter just as YOU can agree, and make up your minds in the outset that you are going to remain good friends, even if it costs all the bees and your whole summer's work. Don't let it turn out as shown in the cut.

The Honey Bee in Natal.

The honey bee exists in Natal chiefly in a wild state, the colonies being very numerous and are found in all kinds of places, many of which would appear most unsuitable for their welfare, and in some cases very inconvenient to the owners of the property occupied.

On the coast the trees in the bush afford good accommodation, but they have already found that the frame houses which are very plentiful on sugar estates and along the line of railway were specially erected for their