

few colonies and work up, rather than a great number and then have to work down. (3) During the extracting season in a large apiary the apiarist should have one or two boys to carry combs, one to uncap and one to extract while he manipulates the hives. The remainder of the season he should do nearly all the work. (4) This depends on circumstances. When there is but little honey in the hives a great many could be extracted, but if the hives are full I don't think he could do so many. (5) If the writer means proper assistants to do the extracting I would say from 100 to 150 colonies spring count, in an average season if the apiarist is expert.

J. E. POND, JR., FOXBORO, MASS.—(1) I have never kept bees except as a matter of recreation, but I have kept 50 colonies and even more at times. My locality is not up to the average, as we have a short season of white clover and no basswood. I have kept a strict cash account at times and have found beekeeping with me to pay well. (2) Presuming him to thoroughly understand the business, and attend to it faithfully from 175 to 200 colonies, provided he could market his honey from 12 to 20c. per lb. for comb and from 10 to 12 for extracted. (3) He should need but one man and a boy during the height of the season; a boy the year round. (4) I don't know. It would depend largely upon the man, the condition of the hives, etc. (5) Ordinarily from 1000 to 2000, but this will depend upon the man. One could oversee 2000 while another would be lost with 200.

P. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N. Y.—This is a hard set of questions. We have all heard of the old man teaching his grandson his letters. When he came to one he didn't know he would say "this is a hard one, we will skip him." (1) At present prices bee-keeping doesn't pay with nine-tenths of the bee-keepers. (2) At present prices, perhaps four hundred if well managed. You needn't expect 10 cents per pound. (3) Not any. Chas. Dadant & Son have a man who takes care of 400, and it would not be courteous to suppose a smart Canadian would do less. (4) We will skip this one; there is so much difference in men and in the number of combs in a hive and the amount of uncapping, etc. We heard of a smart girl who once extracted 1000 pounds in a day, and probably a man ought to do half as much when he works hard. (5) Several thousand, if he has the executive ability of a Capt. Hetherington.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—(1) Yes, many men make more of a success in life by keeping bees than they would do at any

business on a salary of \$1000 or \$1200 per annum. (2) This question can be answered by each one for his own location only. The result in my apiary has been an average annual yield of about 108 lbs. per colony, spring count, during the past twelve years. If honey would bring ten cents per lb. I would need about 200 colonies to insure me the average annual income specified over and above expenses of the business and depreciation. (3) One competent assistant for four months, June 1st to Oct. 1st, and two lady assistants for a month or six weeks would be amply sufficient. (4) From 10 to 20 according to facilities and methods of management. (5) Some men can successfully oversee hundreds of assistants, while others seemingly of equal abilities otherwise, cannot successfully oversee a single workman, therefore any answer to this question would be pure theory, and is not wanted. These questions of *Apis Canadensis* cover a large field and cannot be satisfactorily answered in this department, a long article being required for that.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—(1) There are two sides to the first of these questions which admit of two answers, Yes and No, just as there are two sides to the question "Does farming pay?" After deducting the wages of hired help, necessary expenses and depreciations in the value of implements, buildings, etc., we all know it does and it does not. Whether the result is a gain or a loss to the proprietor depends very much on his own capability. In like manner it will depend upon the capability of the beekeeper whether he made it a paying or a losing business. (2) If he be a specialist, which implies a special adaptability for beekeeping as well as a thorough knowledge of it, he ought with from 150 to 200 colonies average a profit of \$1,000 a year. (3) Two boys would fill the bill. (4) One man alone cannot with profit or satisfaction extract. Even with assistance, the number gone through in a day will depend on the quantity of honey each contained, whether the comb was capped or uncapped, would make the difference of work of one hand—twenty-five minutes would be an average time to allow for taking out and returning the combs of a hive. (5) With the assistance of a couple of boys in the busy season, 200 hives might be successfully manipulated.

By THE EDITOR.—(1). It most certainly does when properly managed. (2.) From one to two hundred, according to location and management; less would frequently do. (3.) One man will