

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 Can-
adian Bee Journal.]

"What kind of a building would be most suitable for wintering bees, stone or cedar, above ground or underground?"

"What would be the most suitable to put under the hives to prevent the dampness—would you advise a plank floor, or leaves or felt paper, and what distance should the hives be raised from the ground?"

John Mahon,
Rupert, Que.

Answer to Questions.

For the province of Quebec I would not recommend any kind of building above ground as a repository for wintering bees, but if such a building were used, cedar being a better non-conductor than stone, would be the better material to build it with. The walls of such a building should not be solid, but built with two tight air spaces. The most satisfactory place I have found to winter bees in is a good cellar built of stone or concrete entirely below the ground level, under a dwelling or other building, where the temperature can be maintained at from 44 to 50 deg. F. The dryer the cellar the lower the temperature may be, within the above limits. I have not found that dampness will be injurious to bees in a temperature of 48 to 52 degrees, while a long-continued spell with the temperature 40 degrees might cause a heavy loss of bees. I would not advise a plank floor for a bee cellar, as the bees would be likely to feel the jar

from a person walking over it. I would prefer an earth floor if it was dry. A good cement floor would be the best. It would be solid, would not decay, and would prevent the dampness from rising; leaves or paper are not necessary. Hives should be placed on stands about 15 inches high, place the first hive on the stand with the back end raised an inch higher than the front, then raise the rear end of the hive off the bottom board and block it up with 3-8 or 1-2 inch blocks, remove the cover (leaving the quilt over the bees) and place the next hive on top of the first and treat it in the same way; they may be tiered up three or four high. We find it advisable to place each tier on a separate stand to avoid disturbing the other bees. If many colonies are placed in the cellar, a good system of ventilation should be provided, so as to keep the air pure in the cellar.

R. H. SMITH,

St. Thomas, Ont.

WILL POOL HONEY CROP.

At a meeting of the San Diego Honey Producers' Association it was decided to pool their crop and work on the co-operative plan this year. It was voted to rent a warehouse in San Diego and have all the honey brought to this place, to be graded and sold, or held for better prices if the market is not in a satisfactory condition. It is thought that if most of the honey producers in the county bring their honey here the prices can, to some extent, be controlled. The price at this writing range from four to four and one-half cents a pound for extracted honey, and the San Diego Union says it is likely to fall to four cents. The estimates of the value of the honey crop in San Diego county this season varies. Some put it as low as \$20,000, while others put it at the \$100,000 mark.—Rural Californian.