

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.

Bees on Shares.

QUERY No. 281.—I wish to let my bees out on shares next year. What should I give my attendant when I find everything but foundation?—N. W. M.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Just what you and he can agree upon.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Whatever you and he agree upon. "Circumstances alter cases."

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I've no experience in such matters, and I'm afraid one of you will wish you hadn't had any.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Ask D. A. JONES. I should say each should share and share alike.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—If your attendant is a competent apiarist give him the wages of a skilled mechanic and keep all the honey. Don't let your bees out on shares.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Would not try to answer this question. Everything depends upon various minor affairs of which I have no knowledge.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, ONT.—Why don't you say how many colonies you have, as that makes so much difference. If you have 100 colonies and furnish everything, your attendant should have one-half of all honey.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—Well, I don't know. If the season was as bad as it has been with some of us this year, you would need to give him all he made and part of the original stock, if you wished him to make a living out of it.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—This is a difficult question to answer, not knowing the parties, the locality, apiarian fixtures, etc. I would not take all the risk of a bad season and handle your bees for less than one-half of the surplus honey. And then something would depend on what is embraced in the word "foundation." A great deal might depend upon how much foundation was necessary.

J. E. POND NORTH ATTLEBORO', MASS.—This is one of those questions no one can determine unless more is known than is stated in the question. Circumstances, conditions and average results from year to year for a term of years should be given in order to make a problem that, I for one can understand. Knowing no more

than the question states, I can no more give an intelligent answer, than I could to the question, "How big is a piece of chalk?"

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, O.—Oh, dear! I don't know. About Nov. 1, 1891, tell us how many days work the attendant has given to the care of the bees, how much increase there has been and how much honey secured, and we will try and tell you. In this locality, with 100 colonies, the attendant should be furnished every thing (foundation and fun included), and have all the surplus, all the increase and the original stock, if the season should be like two of the last three years, and if he is a nice young fellow, and you have a nice young daughter that will make him a good wife, give her to him too.

A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—You will scarcely be able to find two bee-keepers who will agree as to what is right, fair, and equitable in the "shares" business with bees. Make your own bargain and let every point be distinctly understood, and then if each carries out his side of the contract and both are reasonable men there will be no trouble; otherwise there will. I took 50 colonies of bees "on shares" one time and kept them three years. My own terms were accepted by the owners without a word of discussion and we never had a word of difference or dispute. The terms were the following: I took the bees, managed and handled them, and gave the owners one-half the increase and one-half the honey. They supplied their own hives, foundation and empties for their honey—I did the same. I managed the bees to suit myself without any dictation as to amount of increase, comb or extracted honey, or anything else. They ran their own risk of winter losses, spring dwindling, etc. They delivered the bees to me in the fall and took them away in the fall when I gave them up. They were well satisfied and I was well satisfied with the results, with the exception that they wished me to keep the bees on longer, which I could not do as my hands and head were too full of my own work. Now, this basis of the "on shares" is before you, to follow or not follow as you may think it right or wrong. I thought it fair and equitable, or I should not have proposed it. They doubtless thought it so or they would not have accepted it.

THE EDITOR.—Without further particulars it would be difficult to answer your question. The best way in our opinion is to hire a man and pay him by the month. You will make more in the end—if you get the right sort of a man, and the season is an ordinary one.

The Spacing of Brood Frames.

QUERY No. 282.—What is the proper distance for spacing brood combs, (i.e.) how far apart should they be from centre to centre?—E. H. N.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, ONT.—1½ inches

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—I prefer 1½ inches.