

all good but two. The sugar fed bees hibernated, spring-dwindled and showed such general demoralization that I felt almost inclined to give up the business in disgust. Out of the thirty-two I lost thirteen, some of them dwindling out in June with plenty of stores still in their hives, and of the rest thirteen will have to scratch around lively to get ready for Winter some of them being yet on two or three frames—Holy Land bees at that. So much for my experience. One of my neighbors extracted his honey close last Fall according to directions given by the standard authorities, and out of twenty-two swarms lost twenty. Another did the same with two and lost both. And still another was equally unfortunate with two. Now look at the other side of the picture. Three men, a few miles from here, each keep about thirty hives. One winters in the cellar, another upstairs over his dining-room and the other out doors. None of the three ever think of opening a hive for any purpose, and so the bees get leave to build their combs any way they like, and all Winter their bees without loss and they have nothing to live on but the despised honey and the much dreaded pollen. Now what are the conclusions to be drawn from the foregoing? Simply this: that where bees have no Fall honey pasturage there is nothing equal to natural stores. I might also remark in regard to Mr. M. Emigh's phenomenal success in wintering (as reported in a former number) that he winters on pure natural stores. Now, sir, I have no ambition to be a leader in apicultural literature, but merely to be one of the rank and file of the fraternity, and try to keep my place in the procession; but when said procession walks up to the bar of public opinion and asks for "sugar in theirs" I must beg to be excused as I am a poor man and cannot stand the expense and loss.

J. W. WHEALY.

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Your experience would seem to indicate that natural stores *are* the best. We are quite sure that good natural stores will winter successfully every time, but you must recollect, Friend Whealy, that your natural stores were gathered long before your sugar syrup was fed. It is far better to leave natural stores in the hive if they are sealed and good, than it is to extract them late in the season and feed sugar syrup, as is usually done. Natural stores fed at the same time would give you much worse results, than the sugar syrup.

The time your bees are fed and prepared for Winter has much to do with success. You speak of loss of weight in feeding. We once fed over 200 colonies about one lb. a day for thirty days; at the end of that time there were few, if any, of them five lbs. heavier, although they had received over thirty lbs. of syrup. If it had been fed to them in one or two days, and they had stored it in that time, they would probably have weighed 25 lbs. heavier or more. If you do not want the bees to breed any more, they should be fed as fast as they can store it, till they have enough. In slow feeding the syrup is consumed for stores and brooding, in rapid feeding it is stored up for Winter. You know, Friend W., that "one swallow does not make a summer," nor is one experiment proof positive in all cases. If you had fed honey at the same time you fed sugar syrup, or if to one half the bees you had fed sugar syrup and to the other half honey, you would have found the results in favor of sugar syrup.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

HOW CAN A VIRGIN QUEEN BE SAFELY INTRODUCED.

WE have been a bee-keeper over forty years, and have often hatched some very fine queens from such stocks as possessed desirable traits of character as to warrant us in the effort of having all our stocks composed of the same if it were possible; but after hatching many fine queens from the eggs of a chosen stock as above, we have made special effort to have some of the young queens properly introduced into other queenless stocks, made so for the purpose. But in almost every case the queens were killed, which can best be judged of as to our feelings by those who can realize the true situation we were placed in by such treatment from the bees toward the young queens. I have always found queens that were hatched in strong vigorous colonies to be much the best, hence it will be readily seen that in all stocks to which I attempted to introduce virgin queens were strong and full stocks, having been robbed of their queen but a short time, in some instances a day or two and sometimes only two to six hours. The queens I thus attempted to