

will be sufficient, but give me outside wintering in preference. My experience with cellar and out-wintered bees for the last five years has convinced me that a colony well packed outside is worth almost two cellar-wintered colonies, and that they give less bother and worry. It is a great drawback to the bee-keeper to keep constant watch over cellared bees for six months or more in order to see that they do not get either too much heat or cold. Well packed outside, and with sufficient store provided for them, they will watch the thermometer themselves, and govern themselves accordingly; and the apiarist, if he so desires, can leave them for a few days without uneasiness.

As the bees are now supposed to be led up well and ready for packing, I presume the novice is anxious to know how to proceed with the packing of them. There are many methods of packing, all of them good, provided they are done right. Some winter their bees in a long clamp, all in a row, some singly, with one colony in each; but the latter method is too expensive, and gives too much work. I have tried nearly all the different modes, and rather prefer three or four hive clamps, the fours being the most convenient and the easiest to make. If you are going to make any new packing boxes, try the fours. In the first place, make the bottom, and have it large enough to stand four hives upon, back to back, one facing north and the other south, or in any other direction you please, leaving the hives one or two inches apart, and making the boxes large enough to hold five or six inches of packing all around between the hives and the outside case. Nail the sides to the bottom, and have them high enough to allow for one or two inches of leaves or chaff below the hives, and from six to eight inches above. When you get your outside case ready, put one or two inches of chaff in the bottom, set the hives in, then have a bridge put to the entrance from a hole in the outside case to allow the bees free exit and entry.

Now, take off the cover, raise up the quilt, and place some sticks across the frames to enable the bees to cross over the combs; then put the quilt back over the sticks, leave the cover off, and pack all around and between the hives as tightly as possible, and the same on top. Then put on a good tight cover, so that the packing will be kept perfectly dry, and I am quite sure that, if you only feed and pack up your bees well, you will be delighted, upon advent of the honey flow of 1893, to see the bees rolling in the golden stores

D. ANGUISH.

Southwold, Ont.

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After-Dinner Thoughts.

ALTHOUGH I have just eaten very heartily of green peas, I will endeavor to give you a few stray thoughts, such as they are. I think we have had a good honey season here this year—that is, a good season for those who keep bees in good shape. Those who don't know how to keep bees, of course don't know the difference between a good and a bad season; and it's a great pity for them, too. I have told them many times that the whole secret of success in bee-keeping lies in keeping all their colonies very strong in numbers at all times, so that they may be able to gather honey rapidly when it is abundant in the fields. A weak colony will barely live where a strong one will rapidly increase its stores. I cannot understand the way some people proceed with their work, who seem to study it quite as thoughtfully as those who are more successful. Somehow they don't direct their thoughts straight, but seem to shoot wide of the mark, and would rather take advice of some one who has run out of subjects to write about, and who, for want of better information, tell bee-keepers to raise bees at certain seasons and for certain crops, and then unraise them when the particular crop of either is over. They are a sort of how-do-you-do people who tell you that—people who stop a threshing machine at every bundle, and who either know better or are "out of kilter." Bees must be raised steadily for twelve months, and raised as much as possible at that; and as many should be kept in each hive as possible, if you are working for honey. If you are keeping bees "for fun," then keep them in as many funny ways and shapes as you like; but don't try to mislead people who are endeavoring to make an honest living by raising honey. Thinking is a good thing, providing your machine is in order, and the cogs don't slip; but who by it can add one cubit to his stature, or change the natural conditions in the article of bee-keeping. You may employ any system you please; but you will have to come back to the simple, open fact that it takes a good system of bees, at least half a bushel of them in each hive, to gather honey in paying quantity. You may have as many plans and theories—as much head-on and what-not as you please; but you will have to remember that a person must have a real head on his shoulders if he makes bee-keeping a success. I have lost hundreds of dollars in years past by taking the advice of those whose natural faculties were not sustained by their common sense; but since using the home-made article, such as it is, I