

print. We have been told by some writers that feeding back is unprofitable, while by others we are told that it can be made profitable. Here comes in the difference in localities and markets. If one has a good market for extracted honey at a fair price it would not be profitable to feed back any extracted honey he may secure.

In the twenty-five years that I have experimented in feeding bees, I have been both successful and unsuccessful in making the feeding back of extracted honey profitable. In the twenty-five years I have learned something regarding the preparation of colonies to be fed, the kind of feeder best adapted for the purpose and the preparation of the honey that is to be fed. Until within five years my success in feeding back was somewhat varied. But, for the past five years I have made it profitable to feed, by extracting from a portion of my unfinished sections and feeding the honey thus taken to colonies especially prepared for doing the work of completing sections. Thus transferring the honey from a portion of the unsalable sections to another like portion thereby making the latter portion marketable with no expense except my own labor of extracting and feeding. I find the shrinkage by the transfer of the honey from one set of sections to the other is very slight. The greatest loss is due to the process of extracting, or in other words, to the adherence of honey to the extractor and other receptacles.

I first prepare the colony by filling the brood chamber with combs well filled with brood and sealed honey, or both. The unfinished sections are then placed on the hive two, three or four tiers high, according to the strength of the colony. Directly on these sections I place a large feeder capable of holding sixteen pounds of honey.

The honey is first diluted with warm water and then poured into the feeder just at night for the first, and if all works well it will need refilling in the morning. I find for best results the honey should be a little thicker than it sometimes is when first gathered, for if fed too thin the sections will have a watery appearance, while on the other hand if fed too thick the work will progress slowly, and the cap-pings will be more or less soiled.

Therefore, in my case when I misjudge the duration of the honey flow, and unfortunately put on more sections than the bees are able to finish I find it necessary to do some extra work such as extracting and feeding back. In this I find it more profitable than to carry over these unfinished sections, or to sell the honey in the liquid form.

But, the most satisfactory and profitable feeding with which I have had experience, is spring and summer feeding—stimulative feeding so called—but more especially summer feeding.

Early in the season (I mean the brooding season) the apiarist should see to it that the bees are well provided with stores near the brood, this may be honey or sugar syrup, our colonies should never want for ample supplies at this season. In order to avoid this I aim to feed moderately, or enough to keep a supply of uncapped honey in the combs until the bees commence to gather honey.

If there is an interval at any time during the honey season between any of the sources from which we get our surplus, as there usually is between fruit bloom and clover, I feed moderately that the brood combs may be kept well filled; that there may be no vacancy in the brood combs to be filled with the next flow of honey, the object is to keep the brood constantly filled with either brood or honey, so that all the white honey gathered may be stored in the sections. If this practice is kept up judiciously through the honey season we are sure to catch all the honey in the sections. And later on we can transfer it to our purses in a greatly reduced form.

Bristol, Vt.

Improved Methods of Extracted Honey Production.

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This is a knotty problem. That improvement is necessary, I believe that most will admit, though just how to improve is as yet largely an open question. To know what improvement is necessary we must know the faults of present methods.

Shall extracted honey be a luxury only, or shall it become a staple? I answer, a staple. Sugar now holds first place as a sweet, is backed by a huge monopolistic trust that scruples at nothing, good or bad, so long as its financial interests are forwarded.

Competition, it is said, is the life of trade, though in fact it is the death of it. If competition were only at all times fair, then a thing would stand or fall as it has merit; but alas, competitive methods are often so devoid of justice that merit loses much of its weight.

Comb honey is, and will probably re-