

first of June, a quart jar of syrup fed to the bees **every other day** has resulted in 100 pounds of honey now being on the hives, and the bees working in the third super."

It will be noticed that Mr. Byer overlooked the most essential feature of the above paragraph. Our statement is substantially correct, and can be vouched for by Mr. W. C. Good, B.A., on whose farm some of the hives were placed.

Anything that Mr. Adams may have written can not invalidate that statement; in fact, we know that Mr. Adams and his father, can both tell a like story. Had it not been for this feeding, brood rearing would have stopped. The feeding was sufficiently stimulating to keep brood rearing at a normal pace, because stimulative feeding can have little effect on bees that are not flying actively. During the bad weather in the latter part of May and first ten days of June, the bees did scarcely any flying at all. What flying they did do was in an attempt to gather honey from fruit bloom. The idea of exhausting themselves in a "vain attempt to find pollen," is to our mind an absurdity. Let it be remembered that during the fine weather in March and April, the bees had abundance of opportunity to gather pollen, and had secured abundance of it. Therefore, what they wanted at the former date was honey. Hives that have abundance of food to carry the bees up to fruit bloom, or, as in this spring, up to clover flow, will come through all right. But, we hold, and Mr. Adams will agree with us, that they will do **better** if given stimulative feeding. This, we believe, is the real point at issue, but we have seen it demonstrated to our entire satisfaction. Now, the next logical thought is, how is this feeding to be done? Certainly not as Mr. Byer did it. We think he has failed in his methods. Nothing can be more destructive of the vital force of a bee than a mad scramble for feed outside, where the bees of 80 or 100 colonies are desperately fighting for the

feed. It is simply a carnival of robbing en masse. We have looked upon it and can adequately describe it in no other terms. Neither is feeding twenty pounds at a time a proper method. After a careful reading of Mr. Byers' letter we have come to the conclusion that he has not sufficiently discriminated between feeding as a necessary precaution against starvation, and stimulative feeding for the purpose of forcing brood-rearing above the normal. In fact, we fear he has got the two somewhat mixed, as is his metaphor: "I thought that that panacea (?) for all spring ills of bees—feeding syrup—would bring us safely into the promised land." We do not think that Mr. Byers' position can be called radical.

We trust that this question will receive a thorough discussion. Our columns are open to any and all of our readers to say fully and fearlessly what they think upon it, and if they cannot agree with our view of the matter, we will rejoice at being put right.—Ed.]

Mr. Adams' Opinion.

I was much interested in reading Mr. Byers' letter to you relating his experiences this spring with feeding his bees, and it does seem to me that he goes somewhat out of his way to condemn a manipulation which he admits himself that he practiced only under compulsion and under conditions that were unfavorable to its success.

Now, Mr. Editor, stimulative feeding has given us a safe and sure method of putting our bees in the best condition possible to take advantage of the clover honey flow, and I do not like to see it condemned unconditionally, because it did not do the impossible.

We fed our bees regularly every evening this season between fruit bloom and clover, and brought them through without having any of the brood starve, but there was very little stimulation of the queen. The weather was so cool and wet that

the bees stayed in the hives: condition of things was much the late fall, brood-rearing a stand still and very little cluster. We found that it to get queen cells accepted time and had to give up all til the weather turned favorable.

Now, in cool wet weather cannot fly out, no amount of stimulate them to rearing will save the brood already the other hand with bright like we usually have during part of May or early June, fed regularly every evening wonderful effect on the colony prevents the brood from a time when no honey is coming keeps the queen laying and clover is ready to yield their did force of bees to take advantage.

I have never found that in the hives will do this. I per thing early in the season rearing has advanced to the young bees are hatching out when frames get filled up with the colony has advanced to the young bees are replacing the capped honey in the hives is to keep the queen laying up capacity.

But the anti-feeders say that able weather it results disaster it didn't this spring and the certainly unfavorable. True, have the same effect that it had had conditions been favorable it did save the brood already from starving.

There was no flying out and in the cold. The feeding was evening with Alexander feeders hive, and the only flying that was done by about half a dozen each colony coming out around in the air a few minutes going quietly back.