

to hold the bees—say 8x10 inside for 125 colonies. If their feed is in a normal condition, place one or two thicknesses of burlap under each top-board in October; in a week or two they will lie close to the frames when the top-board is removed. Put them in early, say November 1st, (and I honestly believe that I should say October 1 for good reasons) **leaving every cover out**...If there is much un-capped honey, I would cut up old blankets for additional covering, depending on how warm the repository is kept, and if it dropped to 30 degrees very often, I'd put a coal stove in it. A low flat car covered with straw could be used for running the bees in from outside, on which they could be left. In that case you would want a plank track and a 4 x6-6 door. Leave entrances open and set hives five or six inches apart, tiered up. Flatten the small end of a broom handle, fasten on a thermometer, and shove it through the gas-pipe. Frequent flights are a damage, unless the bees become diseased, and I would not move them out then until half of them began to daub the entrances, and would move them back in a day or two.

My mention of feeding with a spoon was hardly intended to be the very best way, only to show what **can be** done in an extremity, or on a bet.

Where honey is cheap, the best way to feed is to slip in a frame of sealed honey in October. I fed some last fall in division-board-feeders, and I think it could be done all winter; but in case you get a few in the cellar, that are short, set them on top of the others. The sugar candy so highly recommended by Editors Hutchinson and Abbott is certainly good; or you can feed as I am feeding ten of mine now, by putting in a case of low-grade section honey each month on the frames, under the cloth. "And leave the edges of the cloth up?" Yes

"How cold is your cellar?" "38 to 40 degrees, the coldest winter ever known here." But we hatched our chicks in the cellar in March and April, and the two big lamps raise the temperature 10 to 15 degrees.

Don't move out bees until willow bloom. One more word about feeding. I would rather feed my bees, every week by pouring one-fourth lb. of honey or syrup on the burlap-directly over the cluster than to go back to the old way of feeding 30 pounds in the fall, and have the bees all starve on a hive full of candied stores. If your bees don't fly, ten pounds is enough for winter, and if your spring bloom is continuous, you won't have to feed any in the spring. You can tell by watching closely for ejected brood. Leave the burlaps on two or three weeks after setting out, then put them away for next winter.

The ventilators are principally for carrying off the moisture that comes from the bees, and partly for admitting pure air, but if they don't carry off all the moisture, and you find an inch or two of frost on the stone walls, don't be scared, as it will do no harm there; in fact, a foot or two of it would do the bees good by helping them to keep warm,—just as a snow-bank would. Some say that stone walls are damp. This is not true. The "sweat" or frost on stone walls is the condensed moisture from the room itself, and there is actually less moisture in such a room than if the walls were of a more non-conducting material. In the deep snowbank, the snow is soon melted five or six inches around a strong colony, the water going back into the snow, and, if it can escape, the moisture from the bees goes there too, and the bees in this little ice-bound cavern, keep warm and dry, for the air of their little 2x2 room is drier than that of any kitchen in the world."