

did our nest as nice honey comes from a colony having frames filled with foundation as does from frames having only starters, so this fancy section of honey has no claim against frames filled with foundation."

"I thank you for this explanation. Now I should like your experience regarding the wintering qualities of the Italian bee as compared with the German. Can the former stand the cold winters we have in 43° north latitude as well as the latter?"

"It is said by some that they do not; and I used to believe that the black German bee was the hardier; but that was before I made any careful test in the matter. Some 25 years ago I began to look carefully into the matter of wintering; and during the experience of all these years since, I have become convinced that there is little if any difference in favor of either along this line. Some winters the blacks seem to do better; in others, the Italians come out ahead."

"Now I wish to thank you again, and will come to the main item which brought me over to see you. A neighbor has given me some bees in box hives, because he thinks they are not stores enough to winter on. How can I feed these bees?"

"This could have been very easily done a month ago, and perhaps now, should there come a warm spell, or a usual 'Indian summer,' by boring a hole in the top of the hive, if there is none already there, and placing a feeder on top, covering all with wood, box, half-bushel, or something of that kind."

"What shall I use for this feeder? Have none."

"If you do not have a feeder, a suitable sized tin basin or pan will answer every purpose for such feeding."

"After having the feed in the pan, pull up some rather short grass and scatter it over the top of the feed

for a float, to keep the bees from drowning, and set up a piece of section material in such a way that the bees can climb on it over to the feed. Above all, be sure that all cracks under and about your cover are bee-tight, otherwise you may have a bad time with robber bees, especially should it come off quite warm."

"Can I not put off feeding till winter just as well?"

"No! thousand times no! It has been put off already too long. Allow me to impress on your mind, so it will always stay there, that from September 20th to October 5th is quite late enough to feed bees."

"But suppose there come no warm days—what then?"

"If this should happen, and you find the bees are nearly or quite destitute of food when winter sets in, take the box hives to the cellar, turn them bottom side up, and, every three or four days sprinkle a few tablespoonsfuls of honey over the bees and combs, having the honey a little more than blood warm."

"Will the size of the colony make any difference?"

"Yes. If any are large colonies, or any seem to require more, use as much as half a teacupful each time, but do not use so much that they will not take it all, as that which runs down in the hive and stays there will sour, and cause the bees not to winter so well."

"What will be the chances if I can not feed them this fall?"

"Bees have been successfully wintered by feeding them while in the cellar in the way I have told you; but the chances are that a loss of feed and bees will be the result. Still, if I were in your place I would try it if no warm spell occurs, as you will gain in experience, even if you lose the bees."