

they not only failed but lost everything. They saw one little fool making his living at it and they said, if he can do it we can. They lost their bees, and losing their honey they lost their money.

There are some who do not produce much honey and do not progress in the multiplying of their bees. They do not study locality and as a result their business is spoiled for themselves and others.

In wintering bees I think that also should be done in September, not in the months of December, January and February; they will attend to themselves then if you will attend to them in September. Give them all a good feed and let them alone. What I think the successful wintering of bees depend on—and I am pretty sure that I am right—is the quantity of stores more than the position they are wintered in, I have wintered them with no top and bottom and I have wintered them shut down pretty close; and in cold, in warm and in dry cellars, and I find that those that have plenty of nice feed come out in good condition as a usual thing. Some of them of course might die but it is usually on account of queenlessness.

There is one little thing in which I differ from my friend who read the beautiful paper. He recommended, no doubt conscientiously, to unite your queenless and weak stocks in the spring. This I have found from practical experience is waste of valuable time. It is all very well to do it as an amusement, but for profit never unite two or three or ten weak stocks. See that they have enough honey and keep them shut down and give them a good letting alone and they will be sure to pull through. If you have ten and you put nine together their is only one queen left and that

may be the poorest queen of the lot. You have not only lost four or five but you may have destroyed the good queens and very likely got a poor one left, and you have got nothing but your queen. Don't unite in the spring, let them pull through if they can; if they don't you have got the hive for something better when the warmer season comes. That is my experience after twenty-five years. I used to unite them and when we put them together they made a very good looking stock of bees, both in honey and bees, but in three weeks from that I had only one stock of bees and therefore I think my time was wasted.

Mr. Sparling: Mr. Hall, I think very likely you and I do not understand friend Hutchinson.

Mr. Hall: Very likely You know as well as I do that those bees are old and will live a few weeks only and they don't pay for the labor of uniting them with a colony that has a queen. You may lose your queen by that uniting and if you do not lose that queen, those bees are old and are going to pass from the stage of action in a very short time. I don't advise any of my friends to do it.

There is good piece of advice which he gives us and that is to make a good "ready," and without a good "ready" you can't do much. One year I had two boys and a man and myself and we made a good "ready"; then we waited, staying there throwing chaff at each other all day long and we got no honey. They laughed at me. I had 400 supers I think prepared to take comb honey but we didn't get an ounce of it; the next year we had them ready and we got twenty-five thousand pounds with less help. We had a