

to have the hives boiling over with bees for the honey flow. He says: "It has saved hundreds of colonies around here, and a quart jar of syrup fed to his own bees had resulted in 100 lbs. of honey being on some of the hives." I will agree "that it saved many colonies" as without feeding it would have meant many of our colonies starving to death. "One swallow does not make a summer," and I venture the opinion that if a goodly supply of honey had been in the hives at the time in lieu of the feeding, that the results would have been just as good or better than was the case. If pollen was present in the hives the syrup may have stimulated some, and, indeed, it may have anyway, as friend Sibbald thinks that the old bees were chilled and lost in a vain attempt to find pollen, which was so scarce in the hives. After all things are carefully considered, I am inclined to think that Mr. Sibbald's theory is correct. Without the pollen the syrup did nothing else by way of benefit except to save the brood and keep the old bees from starving. Some may think this is too radical a statement, but it is born out by sad experience, and I am going to take the liberty to quote from a private letter from friend Adams on the matter. As most of the Journal readers are aware, Mr. Adams is an advocate of spring feeding, or rather shall I say **has been** an advocate, as I really believe after this spring's experience he will not be so sure about the benefits of syrup feeding in the spring. Quoting briefly from Mr. Adams' letter, he says: "We fed syrup every evening to every colony, but the only good it did was to save the brood already started, it did not stimulate the queens or prevent the bees from killing off the drones." Friend Sibbald says: "I hardly think the feeding of sugar syrup alone in the spring, is the whole thing, do you?" I unhesitatingly answer no, and if given the option of having a nice reserve of honey in the hives for a long spell of bad weather, or the sugar syrup for every night feeding, the honey

would be my choice, even if I could get the sugar gratis. Perhaps, a bit radical some one will say—well, explain why those 40 colonies not fed anything, yet being able to store four times more than any of the other stocks fed for three weeks, more or less?

Some may wonder why we did not have honey on hand when we are so prejudiced against the spring feeding of syrup. Well, in the first place this is the first time we have ever had the necessity of feeding much at that time of the year, and last fall the hives were so heavy that at that time it was a problem how we would get all the buckwheat honey out of the hives before clover would come on.

Another reason is the fact that in the past foul brood has been so generally seeded around our section that we have deemed it very risky to feed honey, as more than once we have foul brood brought in from our neighbors. Have always advised against the feeding of honey, and to be consistent have refrained from doing so myself.

From what we have written already, it will not be necessary to tell the readers of the Journal that we are not flooding the market with honey this year, for unless the basswood should yield a bit, our crop will be exceedingly light. A large acreage of buckwheat was to be sown, but unless rain comes soon we will have no buckwheat and thus have to feed for winter stores. However, such things are part and parcel of beekeeping as a business; hence we are not worrying any about these matters.

Since writing the foregoing, have noticed that I have said nothing as to size of hive used, and friend McEvoy, and some others who like to good-naturedly poke fun at the "barns" I use, will be saying that my big hives were responsible for the disaster chronicled. Perhaps, if I would just say that Messrs. Sibbald, Adams and some others I could mention, do not use "barns," that would answer the argu-

ment, but aside from the others, we had an object line of hives as well this spring. Five colonies were bought fairly good shape, ten of Danzenbaker hives, and Langstroth. After their they were almost devoid for three weeks required (—in fact, received more any other of the hives. Without exception, the poor have, and if what little had in the supers was enough honey would be left nest for the bees' breakfast.

[Our readers are certainly under an obligation to Mr. Byer for his courageous statement regarding this spring. Practical experience has come to us by example as our failures are sometimes as great as our successes. The man who has his failures as cheerfully as Mr. Byer is the kind of man to whom one is greatly indebted. Mr. Byer this spring is unfortunate, but he is likely to make a great deal out of it. He condemns feeding off-hand. It is our humble opinion that he jumped at conclusions that are not warranted. We have urged strongly this spring, owing to extraordinary and exceptional weather. We did this in a condition in which we found the bees and those of some of our friends. These conditions were: One exceptionally fine weather which continued well on brood-rearing was advanced to an unusual degree. This pointed to consumption of stores, with nothing available from the field. The delinquent or fruit bloom opened was clearly seen that bad weather would prevent the anticipated store from two sources we saw—or thought—danger ahead. As a result, we urged feeding. We are still convinced