

as they were when the boards were fastened.

Somebody said if the temperature was right there would be no moisture in the hives. That has been a matter that I have never satisfactorily solved in my locality. Some of the hives, and not the strongest ones either, will be nice and dry while others will be so wet that the water will drip out of the entrance when the bottom boards are fastened. I can find the difference but I can not tell the reason why.

Mr. McKnight: How do you tier them up?

Mr. Darling: I have trestles 2 x 4 and I tier them up three tiers, one on top of the other.

Mr. McKnight: Have you experienced any difference in the bees coming out of the top row as compared with the bottom?

Mr. Darling: I can't find much difference. I find sometimes if it happens to be a little warmer the top row don't winter quite as well as the bottom. I find about 45 degrees is the best temperature to winter in.

You can see my bees and there is not a bee flying out. They seem to be very much satisfied with what they have now. My cellar is dry enough to sweep it every day of the year, and it is built in clay; there is no rock or sand. The heat of the house above keeps any frost from coming in from the outside. The house is never banked. The cellar window on the south-west side of the cellar frequently has neither glass nor wire screen in it but perhaps some boards thrown over the outside and the snow will sometimes blow in on them, and I have noticed when the sun comes out a little there will be an air hole through the snow in February.

With regard to the amount of stores consumed inside and out, I used to weigh my bees in the cellar and weigh them out again and I found

they varied a good deal. Some colonies would weigh only about five pounds less when going out than they did when coming in and some would vary from ten to twelve pounds.

Mr. Post: I never thought there was nearly the amount of difference that a great many imagine. I find in my mine that winter in the chaff hives have just as much honey in the spring as those in the cellar and hold out just as long in the season—their honey holds out just as well after the spring sets in.

Mr. McEvoy: Mr. McKnight says that mine was an exception to the rule, consuming more inside than out. As a general rule it is. It all depends upon the constitution of the colonies and how they are prepared for wintering. I want them to go into winter with sealed stores. Outside they do not begin to brood until towards spring, but if the cellar is rather warm brooding begins and they consume more on that account and I have just as much and in fact more outside than I would have had in the cellar. Just shut off the brooding and it saves the stores.

Mr. Gemmel:—Have you found this brooding up in the cellar an advantage?

Mr. McEvoy: Positively no.

Mr. Miller: I fancy there is a point in regard to the consumption of stores that we are losing sight of. I find that bees wintered in the cellar after being set out waste their stores as it were. They are breeding up and fly more continuously and independent of the weather, than bees that have wintered out on the stands and at that time they are consuming stores more rapidly. I find the difference between the two rather in favor of outdoor wintering, by the time the bees are in condition for the honey flow.