

SHALL WE USE SUGAR IN FEEDING OUR BEES?

If the world were perfectly honest, if not a shadow of suspicion rested upon the honesty of any man of us, then could we answer yes, unhesitatingly to the question, Shall we use sugar in feeding our bees? We could then be sure that if any sugar at all reached the honey to be sold it would be small in amount, so small that neither you or I would hesitate an instant to class it as pure honey. We should be unable to tell by taste or by other test that a possible one per cent of the honey was not honey.

But since many men are dishonest, since men will cheat, since they will face a barrel of apples, since they will try to hide the poor sections in the middle of a case, since they will increase the output of their honey by the aid of sugar-feeding, since all these things and many more like unto them are true then must we hesitate to give an unqualified yes to the question asked above. Yet I, for one, find it difficult to say no to the question. In my own case I do not hesitate to feed sugar. I am confident that my reputation for square deal raises my honey above the suspicion of impurity. Still, I am not able to say that my own feeding is not helping to keep down the price and consumption of honey the country over. And so the answer no hovers in my mind about as uncertain in alighting as the other answer.

That we must at times feed our bees is beyond argument, it is, occasionally feed or lose the bees. No one will say no to that need, but with the acknowledgment of the right to feed comes the denial of the right to feed in a way which will cause suspicion.

To avoid suspicion we can feed honey; but for some of us to feed honey would mean a cutting down of

the income from the bees to the extent of putting us out of the business. Moreover, there is always the lurking danger of foul brood in feeding strange honey to our bees. Then comes the question, Is it possible to feed sugar in a way that will avoid all suspicion? It has been suggested that we color the sugar syrup. This will protect the white-honey man I came near saying (the white honey-man) but still leave the dark amber and buckwheat honey under the ban of suspicion. Alexander feeds sugar by the barrel and real buckwheat honey by the barrels. De old Langstroth said that he liked buckwheat honey diluted with white sugar syrup. Is this the reason that the Alexander buckwheat honey is so popular?

No, coloring the syrup will not overcome the difficulty entirely. Yet it would go far toward placing our delicious white honeys above the suspicion which now rests upon them. The truth is that many people, old people especially, who are prone to expect themselves decidedly, have firmly fixed in their minds the honey which comes from the box-hive, a honey of dark, generally a blend, seldom white. They look askance upon a section of snowy comb containing honey of the delicacy of flavor almost unknown as "taken-up honey."

The whole subject is fraught with difficulty, but we can surely use more care, and we can surely parade sugar feeding less. I cannot, for one, prove of the parading of stimulated feeding when such feeding is done with sugar. I think that such advertising is unnecessary, and I believe moreover, that this variety of sugar-feeding is scarcely legitimate. Again, I disapprove of wholesale feeding before, during, or just following honey-flow. It may be easier to work about the apiary during a dearth

of honey, extracting sugar, each process is not condemned.

Why should the condemned, and being for stimulation be condemned though it is right to be in the eyes of customers. Not that bees make honey, but see a man feed honey stimulates any an observer to the conclusion that the honey out of the report. The night-fall, the views of the observer. The same wholesale feeding; hence I say make apiarian work get their colonies feed with difficulty at all.

The only legitimate honey-producing comes through the winter of dearth till then. Even this comes to the brings it about management. It does ultimately, but the are one.

as to feeding to the rearing, that I think it perfectly under in bees to the sweet into the under in bees avoid honey-crop in the following such a wholesale way already create a clock behooves every subject to see to it