

Hints for Beginners

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What careful study a beekeeper and agriculturist should give to the weather. Time and again to have some idea as to the probable future weather conditions and to be able to tell with some degree of certainty changes in the weather is of value. There is no calling which gives the ample scope for reward for the proper use of body and mind which agriculture does. Many may not see this, but it nevertheless exists. In weather forecasts I do not now speak of groundless conclusions, of things which are supposed to indicate what they do not, but I speak of the tenor of seasons, the result of winds from certain directions, the deductions we may draw from certain clouds at certain times of the day, and the suggestions we get from certain sunsets and sunrises. Even our Lord, who never made a mistake, who never spoke lightly, but always weighed every word, endorses that this can be done by saying "Ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth." Now let the beekeeper get a good look upon the subject and study it during the coming winter and thus be better prepared to make a success of bee-keeping.

To-day, November 28th, I am congratulating myself that all my bees are in the cellar. They, with the exception of four colonies out of 336, are strong in bees and they have an abundance of stores, the twelve-frame single wall hives without covers averaging over 85 pounds each. The bees were put in last week, with our own and those of another (we helped one another) 600 colonies were put in. I could pile these

five high in the cellar and probably with as little grumbling as the small idea hive man would pile up his eight-frame hives. After coming home from this operation I had a man call on me to consult as to the best way of feeding his bees whether the bees would take down the feed in the cellar, or if they could be got to take it down now. The next day I met another man who consulted about the same thing and borrowed a few feeders. What a time to look after such things, and yet I am sadly afraid these cases are by no means isolated. Such work is almost on a par with reaping a field long after the grain is ripe and the weather and chicks, turkeys and other birds have threshed most of the grain I have no desire that there should be less beekeepers, but I would like to see the day when the bees are kept more intelligently or the owners go out of the business. If anyone has bees with insufficient stores for winter under proper conditions I feel sure bees can be fed during the winter and yet wintered with success. Now, remember, I do not advocate this. I am sure it would be very undesirable to practice such beekeeping, yet it can be done. Bees, however, as far as I know, cannot be induced to take feed **down**, such feed must be put **under** the cluster, not **over** it. The hive can be raised from the bottom-board sufficiently to shove under the cluster some feeder open at the top, yet in which the bees will not perish. The feed can be given as occasion requires. As such a feeder must of necessity have a limited capacity I would put in feed two parts, by measure, sugar and a little less than one part water.

It appears to me we put our bees in the cellar just about the right time, and yet if a warm day should come soon, one in which the bees could have a thorough fly they would be better out. On the other hand should such a day