

era of prosperity under proper guidance.

Mr. Darling—I have listened attentively to the paper all through. I think the subject has been treated quite exhaustively, and yet in my opinion there has been one point that has been entirely overlooked. I don't think I ever saw a winter since I had anything to do with bees that the losses were so heavy as last year, but, outside what has been stated in that paper altogether, I think there was one great primary cause, and that was the dearth of nectar the season before. I will give you my reasons for saying so. I am one of those who lost very heavily. I had about 140 colonies a year ago last September, and this summer I went into clover with 16. I attribute the greater part of my loss to two things—one that I had a little too much to attend to last year; the other was that our queens stopped breeding when the nectar stopped flowing and we went into winter quarters with bees too old to pull through. The most of those colonies that dwindled left brood in all stages in the hive, but only a small quantity of it, and there were not enough of young bees left behind to take care of themselves, to say nothing of the eggs and larvae that was left. There was a man who had not so many colonies as I had, who lived eight or nine miles from where I was; he had doubled up to about 66. He fed 600 pounds of sugar before putting his bees away, and he lost nine out of the 66. I was out at his place in May, and he had them in fine condition. The fall feeding overcame to a certain extent the difficulties that had been caused by the dearth of honey in the summer, but a short, sharp feeding will not produce it. I don't know that he extended his feeding over a great length of time, but in our locality a few miles makes a great difference in the honey flow. I didn't get 50 pounds from over 100 col-

onies. He took a small quantity, but not much, and was wise enough not to rob his bees.

Mr. Hall—Mr. Darling allow me to state my experience; it is somewhat different from yours. We have three apiaries; the home apiary shut down last year about the 20th July; they didn't gather their food; they kept shrinking until the fruit bloom this spring. Out of 110 colonies of bees at home we lost two in the home yard, in the cellar, with abundance of honey. The reason of that loss was, they had no mother. The others were old bees, which hatched somewhere about the middle of July. Those old bees that did not breed, and consumed their honey, came into the honey harvest in grand condition. Some of them had foolishly started breeding in the cellar and came out very strong and hadn't sufficient honey to carry them through. I supplied their wants with a few pounds of syrup fed at the entrance. Another apiary we have a few miles from home we winter outside. Mr. McEvoy advises us to shake them off upon small combs. His are small. Mine are 10¼ inches inside measure. I don't know how many we wintered of those. They gathered a large lot of honey last year. The 40 colonies gathered 4,800 pounds of white honey and increased to 70, and they were all of them heavy for the winter. Some of them we shook off upon combs with honey solidly capped. I lost 20 of these colonies from starvation. I was sick last spring and went out with my wife and assistant, thinking I could stand by and give them a little assistance, but I couldn't; I had to go to work and make myself sick again. Out of those 20 that died, allow me to tell you there was only one on the four combs that died, and that one was queenless; couldn't live if it had 50 combs. The secret of it was they couldn't breed in the winter. They didn't seem to exhaust themselves the