

Rev. Mr. Axford then said :—The observations made by me on the subject broached this afternoon, were just thrown out to suggest a reason why the apple crop has been somewhat less this year than is usually the case. With regard to the peculiar phenomena mentioned this afternoon, I have been thinking the matter over in my own mind and might suggest as a probable reason—which might compare favorably with others—that the lack of the apple crop this year may have been *partially* on account of the sharp showers of rain when the apple trees were in full bloom. I reason it out in this way. The trees in one orchard bore very well, but other trees in an orchard a mile distant bore scarcely any at all. All the trees were in full bloom and gave a beautiful promise of a full crop, but during the full bloom, short, but heavy showers of rain fell, and the thought struck me whether the rain had not washed off the pollen from the blossoms in the one case, while the other escaped. This, I think, was indeed so, for the one orchard eventually was full of fruit, and the other almost empty ; so that I believe this may in some measure account for the subject we were discussing this afternoon.

Another thing I noticed this year was *the absence of bees*, for I have not seen in my orchard a single bee, and I think I may add also that I did not notice any large flies. I suppose flies eat honey, and we know that bees are fond of work in that direction. In fact it is a matter for observation that where there is an absence of bees there is not the possibility for abundance of fruit. I think it would be well in this connection to keep and rear bees.

G. V. RAND.—I would like to ask the Rev. gentleman a question. He made some allusion in the course of his remarks, to the fact of one orchard having fruit and the other not, and the question arose in my mind whether the showers were on the two orchards. And again I might say that many years ago there were no bees among us, but we had an abundant growth of apples, and I do not see why the same thing should not occur again. My idea is that the heat question has more to do with it. It takes a certain amount of heat to make anything productive. Onion seeds will germinate and grow where other seeds would be destroyed in germinating at precisely the same temperature, and that may be a reason why some trees will be productive under certain circumstances and others will not. I have observed in my own case that three days will make a difference. The year before last I remember particularly some Gravenstein trees