

Before the Western

Classification Committee

Freight Rates on Extracted Honey in Bulk
Materially Reduced.

By Herman F. Moore in Gleanings in Bee Culture.

Mr. Root:—Dr. C. C. Miller has just left my office with Mr. Geo. W. York, and will stay one night at Ravenswood with him. The doctor stayed at my home last night. He says he has often been asked to pronounce a benediction, but answered that he was not a minister. But I tell you it is a benediction to have Dr. M. for a guest; and if he did not preach to us—why, I never heard preaching. Mrs. Moore and myself were charmed by the doctor's visit. He sang for us in his own inimitable style and played an accompaniment on the piano.

We had 45 minutes before the full committee. It consisted of about sixty men of all ages, from the youth of 25 years to the gray-headed veteran railroader, seated at a long table in a room 75 feet in length.

Dr. Miller called attention to the fact that the bee business is a great and growing industry: that it needs encouragement from the railroads to develop into one of the greatest interests in the land. He said, by way of parenthesis, that he was there in the interest of the roads; that if they'd give us lower rates we'd give them more business. He mentioned the fact that one supply firm had shipped seven carloads to western points in one month (The A. I. Root Co.); also that fourteen carloads of honey was shipped from Arizona in 1894 to one firm in Chicago (R. A. Burnett & Co.).

Nine petitions were presented to the Western Classification Committee by the chairman of the committee appointed by the North American Beekeepers Association at its convention at St. Joseph (Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ill.). Petitions on four of these same articles were presented by the A. I. Root Co., of Medina, O.

Bee-hives in the flat was first on the list. Through the kindness of T. G. Newman, sample packages of stuff were on hand to show the committee. Mr. York, editor and publisher of the American Bee Journal, assisted the writer in elevating the samples in view of the committee. Attention was called to the fact that bee-hives in the flat (K. D.) have no greater value than average lumber shipments, and that the Trans-con-

tinental Committee had already rated them with box stuff at a very low rate.

Samples of the Crane and Clark smokers were next shown to the committee. They took great interest in these, and one or two amused themselves in a quiet way by aiming the current of air at a fellow-committeeman's face.

Samples of honey-box lumber were then presented, and the uses explained. Just then a young man asked how long a bee lives, to the great amusement of the others. Dr. Miller said it depended on what kind of a bee he meant. Another committeeman put in, "A bumble-bee," and the whole committee of railroad-men burst out laughing, like a lot of schoolboys.

The writer believes that whatever reduction is obtained will be more the result of Dr. Miller's jokes, and R. A. Burnett's case of honey, which he presented to the committee, not for publication but for good faith, than to any of the solid arguments advanced in the course of the conference.

In answer to the question, Dr. Miller said that ages vary greatly, and explained the matter at length as bee-keepers understand it.

Then said Dr. Miller, "I am going to tell the biggest whopper yet. Our queens lay as high as three thousand eggs in a single day;" and some gentleman remarked, "That is the reason the bees live so short a time."

The honey extractor crated was then exhibited, upright and lying on its side, so as to give the committee a good idea of the structure of the same. The committee was asked to classify these, as there is at present no classification of them in the Western.

Honey in comb being the next position, a section of comb honey was handed about, and the gentlemen began to sample it with their fingers.

Dr. Miller explained at length to the committee that we have no fear of breaking the glass, but the honey inside, owing to ignorance of the nature of the contents. A large crate to hold a dozen 12 lb. cases was shown, and our method of packing the