

them in the garret and the temperature was possibly from 30° above zero to 30° below. Last year I took 28 pounds again from the same box.

Question. What was the cost of your hive?

MR. E. F. STEPHENSON. I think \$10.00.

Question. Did you feed them anything.

MR. E. F. STEPHENSON. Nothing during the winter.

PROF. BAIRD. I see Mr. Gunn, a bee keeper, here and we would like to hear from him.

MR. GUNN. Well, Mr. Chairman, if it is experience you want I can give you some. The first time I had bees was eleven years ago. In this eleven years I have had as much experience as the average man. I had about three times as much experience as honey, but we got honey too. From the one colony that we started with, we went up to thirty and down to three or four. Last year was our most disastrous year. They gave very little honey and wintered badly. We kept them in a stone cellar. We put in eighteen colonies and took out seven. They increased during last summer to fourteen and from these fourteen I got nearly 100 pounds a hive. They are now in fine shape, experience becoming less and honey more. I think the cause of death of so many of the colonies on our hands was too much moisture. This winter I took a look at them and found a great number of dead bees, so I put some quick lime in the cellar and I think that takes up the moisture. I looked into the cellar the other day and they seem to be very vigorous. I have known our cellar to go below freezing point several times. As for summer treatment of them we let them take care of themselves. As to the experience, we began to realize that it was best to leave the bees alone. We have never taken any trouble about having them face eastward, in fact we have them nearly always facing the South. Ours, when they swarm do not look for the low trees but for the very highest oak trees on the farm. They seem to want to get up in the world. Now we trouble ourselves about nothing but extracted honey. As to the quality of the honey it seems to be generally known that the Manitoba article is superior to any other. I have found it so in selling honey and I have frequently met people from other places who say that it is first-class and much better than what they get at home.

MR. BEDFORD. From the experience we had two years ago I was led to believe that the trouble with our bees was caused by the honey they had stored for winter and that they had got among other things the honey-dew so one year I gave them candy instead of honey and they never wintered better. Candy is also cheaper than honey and when you once understand how to feed it, it is very easy.

MR. GUNN. The season of 1896 was a bad season from beginning to end, and so we got discouraged about extracting honey. As a