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## Bee-Keeping Experiments

At the Dominion Experimental Farm  
Apiary, Ottawa.

By Mr. John Fixter

Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen: When our secretary wrote me, asking me to take part in this meeting, I wrote and told him that I would be pleased to do anything to forward the interests of bee-keeping. I asked him to allow me to take up the management of an apiary, and to explain the different appliances that I have used, with the object of learning something from our older friends here. I am out much among the farmers, attending Farmers' Institutes, and I never fail to bring up the bee-keepers' side of the question. I attended some twenty meetings in our own county and gave a short talk and explained as you see here on the charts the different appliances and how to work them, and I had hoped that the would put me on the program for an evening session, so that those who are interested might come and listen. My instructions might not be the same as those of some here, but that was my

object, to try to learn something from them. However, he placed me on the program to give the results of experiments, I have a few of them here. Most of you are aware that we had a very poor season in our district, and we were not able to carry out all the experiments that were planned, but I think the few we have may be of interest to you.

### Experiments to Test Whether Moisture Would Affect Bees in Their Winter Quarters.

Four pails of water were arranged on a table in such a way that three colonies of bees would rest on the edges of the pails. The hives were arranged as follows: The wooden covers were removed and the propolis quilt left on each hive; over this a strip of sacking six inches wide was placed, extending from each outside pail, the ends being well down in the water to act as a conductor of moisture. The bottom boards were loosened, and a one-inch block was placed under each corner between the bottom board and the brood chamber, to give extra ventilation in the hive. The bees came out in excellent condition. The proximity to the water did not appear to injure them in any way.

I have the same thing on this year, and hope to test it a little more fully.