

*Question.* Do you allow the bees to make their own combs?

MR. BEDFORD. No, we supply the foundation as it takes four times as much work to produce one pound of comb as to produce the same quantity of honey.

REV. MR. BURMAN. I would like to ask Mr. Bedford if he has had any difficulty with the honey in the matter of granulating. The reason I ask is this. There is in the Province a colony of Swiss and they are great bee-keepers. I have brought with me a sample of honey from that colony which they say is superior to Swiss honey which is the best in Europe. The Swiss complain that it will not granulate. That is why our friends in the East mix honey with glycerine. I am sorry to say it is true and I know it for this reason, that a person who deals in Eastern honey told me a little while ago that the dealers always ask what per centum of glycerine you would like put in the honey and they say that as a rule they put in about 18 per cent.

There is something singular about this honey remaining liquid always and I would like the bee keepers here to examine it. The Swiss think that there must be some particular flower here that keeps it from granulating. I got it last March and therefore it will be two years old next summer. This that I have in this little glass has been exposed to the air since last March. The moisture has evaporated but it has not granulated. I wonder if the gentlemen here can tell us anything about that and whether any particular plant would keep it from granulating.

MR. BEDFORD. I have heard it said, but I do not know on what authority, that there are certain plants of the artemisia family in California that the honey produced from will not granulate. Possibly this honey was gathered from Artemisia. You know that it is very plentiful here.

MR. BURMAN. I have made a great many inquiries but these people do not know enough of the country to be able to tell anything that would throw light upon the matter. I scarcely think that that will cause it. The Artemisia is a bitter plant and it seems hardly likely that it could be that, as the flavor is not at all bitter. It seems remarkable that honey that has been exposed to the air for so long will not granulate and remains so soft. If we can find out what plant this is it will be worth thousands of dollars to the Province. I have been trying to find this out for the past year and I am now having an analysis made for that purpose.

MR. BEDFORD. Honey certainly does not always partake of the particular qualities of any plant. The best honey that we have at Brandon is produced from the Gum weed, and the plant has a turpentine odor but the honey is quite free from unpleasantness.