

## WAX PRESSES

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,—I notice in March number of C. B. J. that Mr. J. L. Byer quotes Mr. E. F. Atwater as "having passed opinion on the 'German' and other steam presses as being hopeless nuisances when the comb is melted in the machine," and Mr. B. goes on to say that he wishes to place himself on record as agreeing entirely with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Atwater. I too can only say that these gentlemen have rendered a verdict which is very near correct, but we are in hopes of making wax-rendering by steam a success yet. I notice, too, Mr. Editor, that "you are ready to welcome anything that is really an improvement," so I will try to describe my ideas on rendering bees-wax.

Some fifteen years ago the writer constructed a steam wax extractor which as a wholesale renderer, surpassed anything known of, but having no press in connection, knew well that a great deal of wax was thrown away with the slum-gum. There has, however, been a press added to the renderer this past winter. It is not by any means perfect, but is edging that way, and for capacity it is very questionable if there is a machine on the market to-day which will do the amount of work it will in a given time, and give as good results.

When first contrived there was only a syrup barrel used in which to do the rendering, but have now a tin box 21 inches square by 30 inches deep. There are four racks so proportioned that when in place they fill the said box and are composed of a tin bottom 20 inches square with railing all round, 10 inches high; on each tin bottom there is a second bottom of wooden

strips which allows the steam to pass through, and also the melted wax to run off. There is a coarse canvas 36 inches square spread into each rack and the chopped-up comb thrown into it, fold in the edges of the canvas and place the first rack on three wooden strips, say 1 inch square, and about 18 or 20 inches long in bottom of renderer, fill each rack as described and place them on top of one another until the four are in place if all are needed, cover up the renderer with a canvas and then put on a tin cover, which may need a little weight added to prevent the steam from escaping too much. There is steam connection near the bottom of said renderer with a little boiler, and by opening a tap steam is admitted in quantity to suit the operator. The renderer when in use is tilted a little forward so that the wax in each rack will run to the front and fall free to the bottom, where it finds an exit thence to a vessel sitting in a tin into which a breath of steam is also admitted which keeps the wax melted until the receptacle is full enough, when the wax flow has to be shut off and also the steam until the vessel containing the wax is lifted away and replaced with an empty one. After this has gone on for probably an hour, the steam is shut off and the slum-gum in each of the racks stirred up a little to be sure that the steam is getting through it well, after which it is steamed say 30 minutes, when each canvas is neatly folded over the slum-gum and put into another tin box which is 16 in. cube; in the bottom of said box there is a series of wooden strips (a la Gemmill) and on those strips the first canvas containing the steamed slum-gum is placed, then a sheet of heavy tin 15 inches square, and another set of strips and the next canvas and so on till all are in that is going to be pressed. There is a fairly well-fitted follower put in the mouth