

The Weed Process of Manufacturing Comb Foundation.

Accepting an invitation from the Goold, Shapley & Muir, Co., I paid a short visit, a few days since, to their establishment at Brantford, and there witnessed the manufacture of comb foundation as carried on by the Weed process.

As I was much taken with the machine, I will endeavor to give the readers of the Canadian Bee Journal, some idea of its working. I am not however, a good descriptive writer, and therefore trust that due allowance will be accorded me, in my attempt in this direction, the more particularly so, that I am limited for time, at this moment. The machine is certainly an ingenious affair, and quite on a par, in my humble opinion, with the many other more modern improvements in manufacturing machinery.

The first thing in the manufacture of foundation, in this, as any other process, is the melting of the wax, and this is done in a large tank heated by steam, the wax in no way coming in contact with water during the melting process. As it becomes liquified it runs into a smaller reservoir in front of and coming immediately in contact with a hollow revolving metal cylinder, about 1 foot in width by a foot in diameter.

In order that the wax sheet on the cylinder a stream of ice water is constantly flowing through it, in a particular way and in such a manner as to keep at the proper temperature. Immediately behind the cylinder is another small reservoir or tank, containing water through which the sheeted, or more properly speaking the rolled wax passes, as soon as it leaves the cylinder. About two feet further back there is a wooden roller about a foot long by 4 inches in diameter, on which small tin cylinders all temporarily adjusted for receiving the foundation. Just as fast as it is being sheeted, it is rolled up into coils of about twenty-five pounds, and after being removed and piled up it resembles to a great extent the rolls of leather belting found for sale in an ordinary retail hardware store having however an altogether different aroma. This machine is capable of making one pound a minute of either brood or section foundation which is cut to the right width for either, by small and well arranged knives as soon as it leaves the sheeting cylinder.

It is claimed for foundation made by this method, that it sags less, and will not break or crack when it becomes cold, and the latter statement seems to be correct in so far as I was able to judge, as a piece of

section foundation which had been placed on ice for a time while I was present was so pliable and soft that it could be bent into any shape desired.

I am not as yet in a position to make any statement in regard to its sagging less while being drawn out by the bees as is claimed for it, but have been furnished with a quantity for experimenting with, and as soon as I can will give the readers of the Canadian Bee Journal the result of my trial.

Trusting this short, and I regret to say rather hurried account may be of some interest to the bee-keepers at large I will make no further comment thereon at present.

F. A. GEMMELL.

Stratford, June 26th, 1896.

York County Bee-keeper's Meet.

—LEWIS MAPLES, Sec.

The Y. C. B. A. met at the residence of Mr. P. Byer, Markham, on Tuesday the 26th inst. Among those present were: Messrs. W. S. Walton, pres, Scarborough Junction; J. Davison, Unionville; D. W. Heise, Bethesda; Wm. McEvoy, foul brood inspector for the province, Woodburn; S. Hall, Pine Orchard; J. March, Bethesda; A. H. Crosby, Markham; Anthony Ionsdon, Wexford; R. W. Ward, Claremont; W. B. Button, Ringwood; Jas. Slack, Claremont; L. B. Baker, Ringwood; L. Maples, Markham; A. D. Reesor, Markham; D. Brown, Markham; Mr. and Mrs. Ira Badgerow, Bailantry; and others.

After the usual formula of opening the meeting the president made a short address and then called on Mr. J. Davison, for a paper on his method of producing comb honey. Mr. Davison has produced a great deal of comb honey, and has been very successful in winning prizes for his product at our agricultural fairs. His remarks which smacked strongly of experience were followed by a few comments by Mr. McEvoy and others.

The delegates, Messrs. D. W. Heise and L. Maples, who were sent to represent our society at the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association held at Brantford in January, were then requested to give their report. After an expression of approval from the society for the work that they had done, Mr. D. W. Heise was asked to read a paper on "Some things we should not do." Mr. Heise has found out pretty well the things we should not do.