

January, 1910

the last three
 lied beeswax to
 a line of paper.
 who is supply-
 engravers with
 work like that,
 to the kind of
 rity, as to how

ducer is more
 ine of wax pro-
 oney producer,
 oducer does not
 sources of wax
 s that are filled
 hapen and not
 open to use ex-
 w top bars, you
 ne by scraping
 een these same
 after year by
 hey never were
 are big wages
 os, to say noth-
 dling them for

roduction, which
 most of us, is
 a dose of foul
 up over 5,000
 een for the wax
 a hard matter
 he would have
 ived more than
 ion he needed,
 \$75 to the good.
 wax production
 uestion of how
 ax, and then we
 wax presses. To
 ring up combs,
 of wax presses.
 to me different
 e-keepers, and
 the trouble to
 I want to say,
 press was used
 i handling that
 to me, but it is
 run from 25% to

30% of wax on an average. As to presses, I am not a bit backward in saying I would not have one of the German wax presses if you would give it to me as a gift. Mr. Greiner, of New York, reported that with hard work and good faithful attention you could get about fifteen pounds a day; and for any bee-keeper to go and spend all day for that amount I don't wonder he would be disgusted with it. With regard to the press Mr. Herzhiser has brought out I am not competent to make any remarks, because I have not used it, but my impression is for the ordinary bee-keeper it is a little too bulky and cumbersome. I think Mr. Herzhiser will agree with me that we should have some special facilities and special rooms, and if that is so there is no question you will get all the wax, or nearly all of it. The next press after the steam press I used was the Hatch-Gemmell press, and I might say that that press is still my preference, all things considered. Two years ago you remember Mr. Sibbald bringing out an improvement, in his estimation, on the old Hatch-Gemmell press. He went to a lot of trouble and had it here. He got out a model and it was illustrated in our Annual Report. I have tried the Sibbald wax press, and for some reason I can't make any headway with it as compared with the old Hatch-Gemmell. The only fault I had with the latter press was in applying the pressure. The pressure was applied in the centre with a screw, having a cap on it, similar to a jack screw, to hold it steady, and I found the screw was turning around all the time, and I was bothered sometimes with the follower tipping. I got that rectified and now it is all right. We found by actual experience in three or four days' test that we could get a very small percentage more of wax with the Sibbald press than with the Hatch-Gemmell, but on the other hand the extra work more than counter-balanced that. I only made one test as to what wax we were leaving in the slumgum. Last winter some time

we rendered up one afternoon with the Hatch-Gemmell, 127 pounds of wax. More than one-half of it was from old comb, and the balance from scraping the narrow top bars. We saved that slumgum, and while it was still moist the next morning I happened to have a wax press there of the model of Mr. Sibbald's and I suggested we take this slumgum and see how much wax we could get from it. We worked all day and we got 6¼ pounds of very inferior wax. The question resolved itself with me to this; if we had run that same slumgum through the Hatch-Gemmell, we should certainly have got some wax anyway.

As to the purity of wax, Prof. Shutt and others have given us different tests from time to time. Paraffin and ceresin, I believe, are the main adulterants. If the beeswax is pure, and if you take and chew a sample you will find it will all granulate in your mouth. If there is any great amount of paraffin along with it, it will be pasty and not like gum in your mouth. It is a simple test, which I am assured by manufacturers and others will tell if there is any perceptible amount of paraffin with it. Ceresin, I understand, is the main adulterant used in comb foundation. They tell me as good a test as you can make for that—I have never tried it myself—is to take a hot iron and drop a sample of what you know to be pure beeswax on it and notice the smell and odor of the smoke, and then take your suspected sample, and if there is a very small percentage of ceresin in it you can tell it right away; a very fatty pungent smoke will come from it.

In our experience the quality of wax from the hot water press is not as good as from the Hatch-Gemmell. We rendered this 127 pounds and sent a shipment to Mr. Craig, just as it came from the press, and he reported it O. K. I used sap pans and covered them up well and let it cool slowly. Sometimes you will notice cakes of wax will start to check all over the top. That is the fault of