

Essex bee-keepers know a good thing when they see it and take the advantage. We might say that if any of those struggling bee men in the north, want to raise honey and make a success of it just come up here and start a ranch, we have every advantage—winters are mild, and wild and tame flowers abound.

Yours truly,

PETER BUSSEY.

Cottam, Ont.

## Timely Topics.

A. E. HOSHAL.

In rendering comb and cappings into wax, I have found most of the ordinary methods of doing this work quite unsatisfactory. However, if a person has the time and patience, it can be fairly well accomplished by any of them; but when there is a considerable quantity of comb cappings to be rendered, and a person's time is valuable, such pottering processes cannot be tolerated. For a rapid and generally satisfactory way of rendering a considerable quantity of wax, I have found none better than the following. Provided with a large tin boiler, a dipper, an ordinary steam wax extractor and sufficient vessels for holding the wax, proceed as follows. Place the boiler with five or six inches of water in it to prevent burning the wax on the stove, and beside it the wax extractor ready for work. As soon as the water in the boiler boils, put into it the comb or cappings to be rendered, and when melted dip the melted comb or cappings from the boiler into the extractor, and the melted wax will at once begin to run from the extractor as fast as you can dip it into it from the boiler. The vessels for holding the wax should have in them some hot water when the wax is run in. This can be done by dipping some of the water from the boiler into the extractor with the

wax. The first few dipperfulls taken from the boiler should be principally sediment, as clean wax will not run from the extractor, until the bottom of the perforated basket is covered with sediment. When the basket becomes full of this, it should be thoroughly stirred and worked until the wax stops running from the extractor, before emptying.

Old dark combs and those filled with pollens should never be melted with new empty combs or cappings. It hardly pays to attempt to render them even by themselves, unless a person has a wax press. The foreign matter they contain, seems to absorb about all the wax in them, and sometimes I imagine even more.

Unless a press is used, I am strongly of the opinion, that the amount of wax left in the sediment by bee-keepers is considerably more than most of them suspect, no matter whether rendered by a solar or steam extractor, or the bag and hot water process. To the naked eye the sediment appears to be quite free from wax but (1) when dry it will burn quite fiercely and for some time. (2) When magnified one hundred times, it appears to be nearly all wax with only enough dark matter to give it coloring. (3.) If while boiling hot a quantity of it equal in bulk to a walnut or less be tied in a piece of cotton, and strongly pressed between two blacks, a comparatively large quantity of wax will be squeezed out.

Owing however to the small quantity of this material which collects about an apiary, I very much doubt if it would pay an ordinary bee-keeper to build a press to extract the wax from this ordinarily refuse matter, unless he should happen to have a large quantity of old comb to render. For rendering small quantities of ordinary comb or cappings, perhaps nothing will prove more satisfactory than a good solar wax extractor.

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