

of the box containing this combination, the box is shoved into the press, steam admitted for a time before any pressure is applied and steamed all the time of pressing. There are four springs used to keep up pressure after the power has ceased to be applied; those springs collectively will carry fully a ton weight, but should be stronger. The reader will understand that we can be rendering in one box and pressing in the other at the same time, but for a small business the one box would do say 20 or 21 inches square and about 16 inches deep. In that case, after steaming, the racks could be left out and put the slum-gum to press as above described.

In this largest box of mine I will be able to scald two bee hives at once by steam, when I see fit to do so, and for the press I think it will be useful for taking the honey from cappings, but would use cheesecloth instead of canvas.

I think probably steam could be generated for running this machine by having the lid of a common wash boiler soldered on, and have it piped to where wanted, it of course, would require an opening for feeding with boiling water. I succeeded in buying a second-hand 2-horsepower boiler for little money, and find it convenient.

I maintain that steam is in every way a much safer and better system of rendering wax than by boiling. In using the German press I always first boiled the comb in a boiler and the same with the Hatch-Gemmill press and frequently had cakes of wax with quite a large quantity of small granules of wax in the bottom of the cake, caused by overboiling, I supposed, as I don't find it following steam rendering. Then in boiling old comb, there is great care required both to keep it from burning unto the bottom of boiler and also to keep it from boiling over.

This machine underwent its initial

test on February 6th, last, the coldest day we had all winter, the mercury having been about 20 degrees below zero all the previous night and about 22 degrees that morning, a most unlikely day for such work, but Mr. G. A. Deadman of Brussels was calling on us and we were anxious to give him a demonstration, and to him belongs the honor of turning on the steam, or "touching the button," as it were.

DAVID CHALMERS.

Poole, April 11, 1906.

CONTRACTION WHEN HIVING SWARMS.

"Canadian Beedom," in the "American Bee Journal," seems rather inclined to cross swords with our friend Frank Adams on the subject of contracting swarms for comb honey. We copy from the "American" as follows:

"Frank P. Adams, of Brantford, is one of our rising young Canadian beekeepers, who, last season, managed a large apiary exclusively for comb honey and queens. In the December "Canadian Bee Journal" he has the audacity to rise up and criticize some of the old-established ideas about comb-honey production. If he had not produced about 10,000 pounds of comb honey in his one yard last summer we might be tempted to advise him to "go away back and sit down." As it is, we shall proceed "to pick his bones."

Mr. Adams criticizes the method of contraction of brood-chambers when hiving swarms for the production of comb honey. Strong swarms, he says, "instead of staying put in the little brood-nest, fool their time away in repeated attempts to change their quarters, and try the operator's strength and patience in an endeavor to get them back to work again." I have had little difficulty on this score where they were given the whole brood-chamber for three or four days, or even a week, then contracted. Aspinwall recom-

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