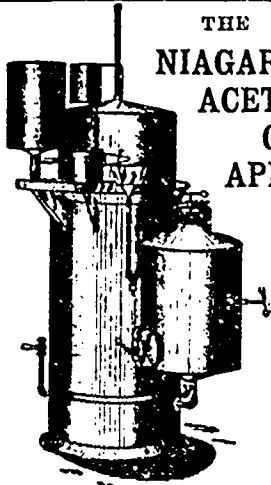


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BELTS AND BELT DRESSINGS.

That it is necessary to apply to leather belts some sort of a dressing from time to time is generally conceded. That whatever preparation is used should be of such composition as to suit the particular conditions of speed, temperature, humidity and other circumstances would seem to be indisputable. Belts running in a dry and hot location require oil to keep them soft and pliable and to insure such an adhesion to the pulley as to enable them to transmit the power proportioned to their width and velocity. Otherwise the belts will dry up, crack and become worthless in half the time that they should. Belts running in a moderate temperature, and where the oil from machinery occasionally splatters on them, will usually get more oil than they need, and if mineral oil is used, it is apt to do more harm than good.

Where oil is applied to belts, it would seem that an animal oil would be preferable, although castor oil seems to have many friends. The engineer usually has his own favorite preparation for the main belts, and his preference generally works well when he uses it himself, but not always as well if

issued to the workmen throughout the shops. Therefore the necessity still remains for the use of some kind of belt dressing that may be put in the hands of employes generally for use by them as occasion seems to demand. These occasions are usually when a belt slips from becoming dry and hard, and occasionally where a belt is required to transmit for a limited time a greater power than was originally intended.

After using and seeing used many of the usual belt dressings in the market, experiments were made to ascertain what composition would be best suited for ordinary, everyday use in the shop, and the following compounds are the result. These preparations have been in use for several years and give good satisfaction.

For a liquid dressing to be used in summer, take: Beeswax, four pounds; pitch, five pounds; resin, three pounds; neatsfoot oil, thirteen pounds. Melt the beeswax first, and add the other ingredients in the order named.

For the same dressing for winter use, the neatsfoot oil should be increased to fifteen pounds.

For a solid preparation for summer, take: Beeswax, six pounds; pitch, five and one-

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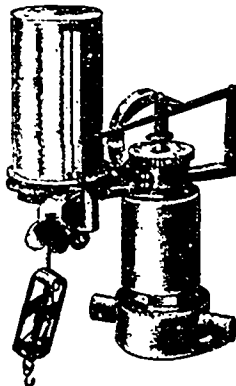
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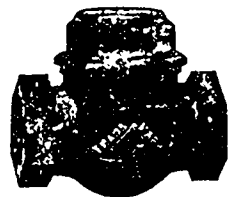
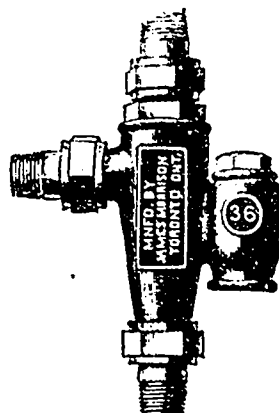
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