

THE SIBBALD WAX EXTRACTOR

The following is Mr Sibbald's description of his new wax press given at the Brant Convention in Brantford on the 22nd of January. It is needless to say that it was well received. The Ham & Nott Co. are manufacturing it, and have announced it in their new catalogue. We can safely commend it as an efficient tool for the purpose, and is inexpensive:—

Every up-to-date apiarist should have in his equipment a good wax press, and should know or understand how to melt up old combs and extract as nearly as possible all the wax from them.

Wax is a valuable by-product of the apiary that might with great profit receive more study and attention. Many combs are unfit for use. Old musty, mouldy, pollen clogged combs, irregular crooked combs, combs having an excess of drone comb, diseased combs, containing the stain marks of foul brood or infected honey, burr combs, burr combs scrapings of the hives, frames or sections, broken combs, etc. All should be condemned to the pot, put through the melting, squeezing, cleaning process, and made into clean cakes of yellow wax; ready for sale, or to be made into foundation, and transformed by the bees into straight, fresh new combs—a thing of beauty and usefulness, instead of an unsightly mass of germ-producing, moth-breeding filth. I have already referred to the diseased combs. Foul brood would never have made the headway it has, or be considered the scourge it is, if old suspicious combs were valued less as

combs, and foundation appreciated more. Bees like to build comb, there is a natural secretion of wax, and there is not nearly the distance most people think between the sheet of foundation and drawn comb.

Outside of the number of beekeepers who attend conventions and study bee journals there are vast numbers who throw away their discarded combs, bury them, burn them. They have no wax press, and cannot believe that any wax can be obtained from such comb. How foolish this is, and what a loss. After last winter's heavy losses, hundreds of combs were left uncovered by the bees, a prey to moths, mice, and insects. At one place I found a snake coiled up amongst the combs evidently enjoying the honey, or waiting there for mice or insects. At one of these deserted villages, containing probably 30 or 35 hives of combs, my assistant secured the lot, and melted and extracted 100 lbs. of wax, which was sold for \$35.00. An average Langstroth comb will yield from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ lb. of wax, 10 Langstroth combs from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Surely, then, it is profitable work melting them and worth the learning how to use a good press. The press I have here is a combination of other good presses, and the combination makes a better press. It is not my intention to manufacture any for sale, so you will excuse me for saying that I think it is the best, giving splendid satisfaction both as to speed and ability to extract as nearly as possible all the wax.

Before commencing operations, it is necessary to have an ordi-

nary stove
 stove boiler
 a number
 to contain
 hold the
 a pair of
 hot trays
 cloths abo
 Start the
 boiling p
 of water.
 on the pl
 screw and
 top bar, so
 as to be
 able to get
 at the
 trays of
 slats. Pour
 this hot
 water over
 all, so as
 to heat
 them tho
 roughly.
 Fill the
 boiler $\frac{3}{4}$
 full of
 water
 again, and
 as soon as
 it nears
 the boil
 ing point,
 fill in the
 combs to
 be melted.
 Mix with
 a dipper,
 and add con
 tained. Draw
 the tank, re
 slats, leavin
 get; on the
 Spread a ch
 and commen
 from the to
 cocoons or