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WAX CRAFT.

Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention.

(Discussion continued from Page 14).

W. A. Chrysler—The principal thing that I wish to speak about is the refining and rendering of wax. With wax properly rendered it would be unnecessary to be refined with sulphuric acid. I find that any trace of sulphuric acid injures wax. I contend that wax that has been spoiled probably from improper rendering, can be refined so that it will be nearly as good as any wax, and will, no doubt, be accepted by all the trades as no different from the wax that has not been refined with sulphuric acid. No sulphuric acid should be put into beeswax in its pure state as we buy it; it will carbonate it. When I have to refine beeswax I take a certain amount of sulphuric acid and dilute it with water until there is probably 99 per cent. of water, and then it can be poured into the barrel of wax after it is melted. Don't put it in till after it is all boiled.

Mr. McEvoy—What proportion of sulphuric acid to the amount of wax?

Mr. Chrysler—I have used about half a pint to 200 of dark wax. There is over 50 per cent. of the wax gathered from the bee-keepers generally throughout the province that the supply dealer has to refine to make foundation of. Wax is as particular a thing to melt up as honey. It can be spoiled by over-heating the same as in liquifying granulated honey. Of course, there is some wax that has been probably put in from dirty receptacles, and it is necessary to get it of a uniform quality in order to make foundation. Wax should be cooled very slowly. When heat is applied to wax or honey or any liquid from below there is a constant agitation. Wax, when left out to cool after it has been melted up, should be covered over thoroughly at the top especially, and the bottom really should cool first. Keep the top warm as

long as possible. By keeping a certain heat above the wax while it is in liquid form you could have the impurities precipitated to a certain extent, and you will get very transparent and very nice wax. With reference to the wax press, Mr. Byer spoke about different presses in use. I might say that the first press I had was from Mr. Gemmell. Mr. Hatch probably "hatched" it and Mr. Gemmell made one and bought it from him, and I thought I improved it. I suppose the press I have been using probably might be called the Hatch-Gemmell-Chrysler press, and I have succeeded very well with that. I did sell a great many of them, but I may tell you now I am not in the market for selling wax presses. Mr. Sibbald I believe probably made an improvement on it. In fact, I made mine to work similar to his, but I find that my own will do just as good work with the amount of labor expended. I tried melting over slumgum last year, and we worked all day, and we got about one pound an hour from the slumgum, and that is the best we could do.

Mr. Byer—A number of bee-keepers wrote me last year in particular asking why they were troubled with such a depth of spongy matter at the bottom of the cakes of wax. I believe the main cause of that is in using hard water. Rain water is always preferable. The lime in hard water acts on the fatty matter wax contains; it is really a form of soap. If you use soft water or rain water you will find it makes a great difference in getting rid of that trouble. I have seen a cake of wax which would probably weigh about 35 pounds, and one-third of that was a spongy mass. I think a great deal of that was caused by using hard water. By allowing old combs to get wet they will deteriorate, and you will get a poor quality of wax.

O. L. Hershisher—When it comes to melted cappings I don't think you will find very much spongy matter in them,