

IMPROVED CONNECTED STEAM TRAIN FOR MANUFACTURING CHOICE BROWN SUGAR FROM CANE JUICE.

In order that the object and nature of this invention may be fully understood, before describing it reference will be made, as briefly as possible, to the different apparatuses for, and methods of, evaporating cane juice heretofore used, and their defects explained.

Notwithstanding the various and multiplied mechanical appliances used in sugar making, there are but two methods of evaporating cane juice, viz: one by the direct application of fire or flame to kettles, and the other, by the introduction of steam into pans either open or in vacuo. The apparatus for refining is very expensive, and within the reach of large capitalists only; hence it has been adopted by but few—the great body of planters being engaged in the manufacture of the ordinary brown sugars.

In what is known as a "kettle train," employed in the first mode, the smallest kettle, termed the "battery," is situated immediately over the fire, and the largest one, known as the "defecator," is furthest from the fire. As the cane juice comes from the mill, it is directed into the defecator, where lime is added for its defecation. After being boiled and scummed, it is passed forward from one kettle to another in the train

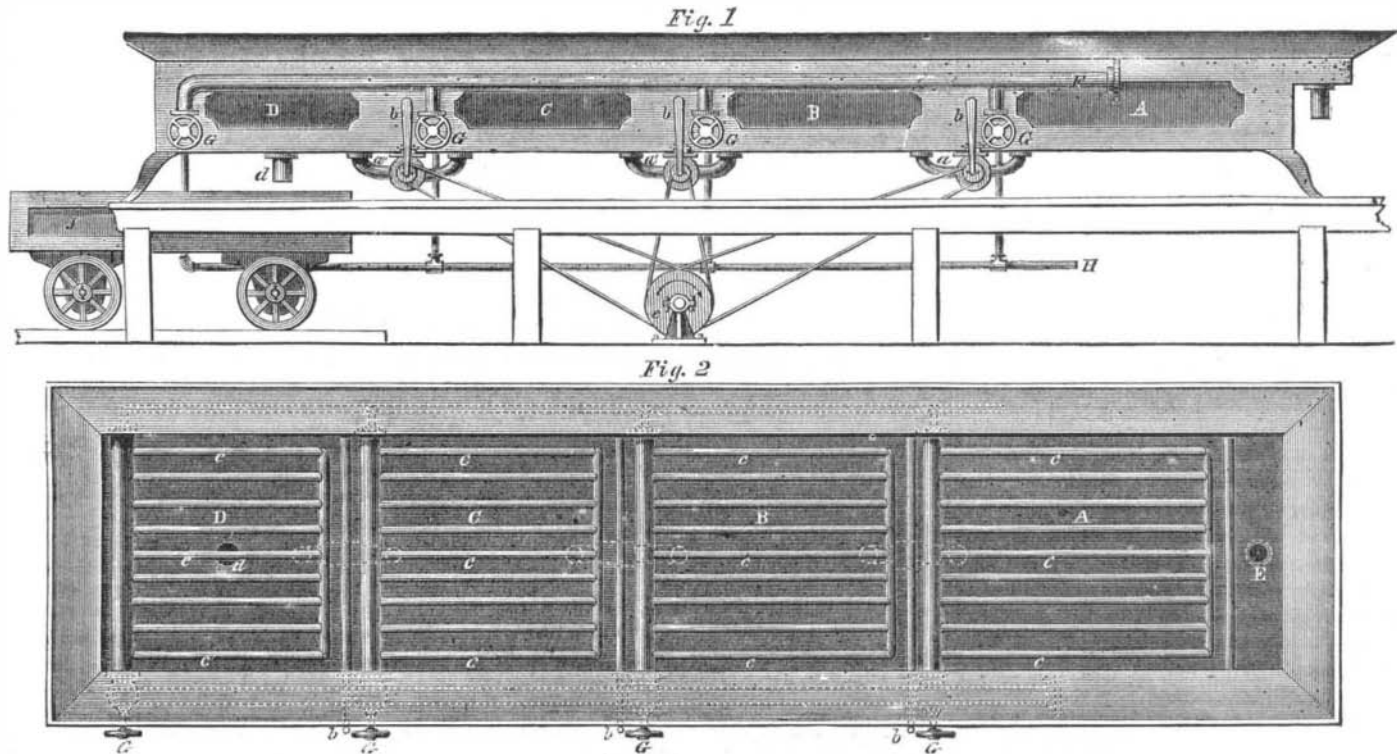
tion varies with the nature of the cane juice. It must be sufficient to effect perfect defecation or very little in excess; and to maintain this point uniformly requires great skill and care on the part of the sugar maker.

In all the arrangements of kettles or pans heated by the direct action of the fire or flames, it is found practically impossible to preserve an equal temper of the cane juice from the fact that after the juice has been limed in the defecator, boiled and scummed, it has to be passed forward with dippers or buckets to the next pans or kettles of the set for further evaporation and cleansing, and in doing so, more or less of the tempered juice must be left in the defecator, it being impossible to thoroughly empty it.

It frequently happens at night or at other times when the attendants are sleepy or careless, that a larger quantity than usual will be left, and on the defecator being filled up with raw juice and having the usual quantity of lime added, the liming or temper will be in excess or too high; and if the same thing should be repeated, the trouble will be increased in the next charge, and considerable damage is thus often occasioned to the quality of a large quantity of sugar. This excess of lime gives a dark color to the sirup, which can only be removed from it by filtration through animal charcoal or bone black.

its foreign matters. In boiling in kettles which are always on the same level, this difficulty is remedied at once by the addition of some less concentrated juice from the next or one of the kettles further back in the train; this being done, ebullition starts afresh and the cleansing process goes on as before. In the open steam train, as heretofore arranged, with the pans isolated, no convenient provision is afforded for this transfer of the juice, and in consequence, the albuminous impurities remain, and when the sirup is concentrated to the sugar point in the battery, nothing but a pasty and deliquescent sugar is obtained.

To get rid of the imperfections remaining in the sirup resulting from the process described, some manufacturers resort to the use of "settling tanks," where the sirup is accumulated in large quantities, to undergo by repose a natural subsidence of its impurities. The density of the sirup best suited for this purpose is 27° or 28° Baumé, and the subsidence proceeds best while the sirup is hot. From the length of time required (24 to 72 hours) and the increased density of the sirup owing to the loss of heat, the subsidence proceeds but slowly, and changes in the composition of the sugar inevitably ensue; these changes are produced even in the purest sirups, when thus treated, but they take place more rapidly and to a greater extent when the sirup holds in



GILBERT & AMES' CONNECTED STEAM TRAIN FOR MANUFACTURING "CHOICE" BROWN SUGAR FROM CANE JUICE.

for further evaporation and cleansing, till it reaches the battery in which it is concentrated to the sugar point, and from which it is discharged into the coolers.

With the use of the kettle train the amount of fuel consumed is enormous, varying from 2½ to 5 cords of wood per hogshead of sugar made, according to the state of the cane—a quantity much greater than is necessary to produce the amount of evaporation demanded. There is also required for every kettle a hand to attend to the "brushing-off" of the scum, and in bucketing the juice from one kettle into another, which is very laborious work. Considerable loss occurs by the leakage of the juice through the tiling, even when the kettles are set on the most approved plan, as well as in "water strikes," by the temporary stoppages of the working of the train. A large percentage of the sugar is lost by being burnt in emptying each "strike," the crystallizing power of which, being impaired, drains off from the crystallized sugar into the sugar as molasses, as also in the process of cleansing the battery by burning, which must be done at least every third or fourth day. The loss by this means upon each crop of sugar taken off in open kettles is at least five per cent. But the ill effects of this constant burning manifest themselves not so much in the loss in quantity as in the injury to the quality of the sugar which so much depreciates its market value.

The proper quantity of lime or "temper" for defeca-

tion has been attempted to obviate this imperfection by defecating the cane juice in separate pans heated by steam and isolated from the kettle train; by this, only a partial amelioration of the result is effected, for the juice still has to be bucketed from kettle to kettle, to keep them all full, or nearly so.

The open steam train has been adopted to a considerable extent, as an improvement on the kettle train.

In the ordinary open steam train, the pans are placed at different levels, the defecator the highest, and the others successively lower, the battery being the lowest, and the juice is completely discharged from one pan to another by gravitation.

In operating the train, the cane juice, after being defecated, is conveyed directly into the evaporator, and is there subjected to the triple process of evaporation, cleansing and concentration, all of which must go on at the same time. That these important operations should be performed at the same time and in the same vessel, without serious injury arising in one or other of the processes, is impossible, and experience has proved that it is so. But while, by this apparatus, a perfect defecation can be maintained, the subsequent treatment of the juice in the isolated pans is unfavorable to the perfect cleansing of its impurities; the reason of this is as follows.

After cane juice has reached a certain density in boiling, it becomes thick and viscid, and ceases to throw off

solution those organic substances which are found in cane juice. Sirups thus treated, when concentrated to the sugar point, produce gray sugars—sugars in many cases inferior in quality to those made in kettles.

In fact, the manufacture of sugar by the ordinary open steam train is so defective that most manufacturers who have adopted it, have been compelled to resort to the use of bone black, vacuum pans, centrifugals, or other remedial processes, to obviate the radical defects of its arrangement, as a means of obtaining sugar of good quality.

The object of this invention is to so construct and arrange an open steam train as not only to provide for the perfect defecation of the juice in the defecator, but to obviate the above-mentioned defect of the ordinary steam train, and to this end the invention consists of the connected steam train, which is described as follows:—

Fig. 1 is an elevation of the connected steam train.

Fig. 2 is a plan of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both Figs.

A B C D are the pans, represented as consisting of the same long, open tank, but they may be otherwise arranged side by side at the same level, so as to constitute a continuous train, the largest pan, A, which is the defecator, being at one end of the train, and the small-

est one, D, which is the battery, being at the other end; the others being arranged intermediately.

At the end of the defecator there is a trough, E, for the reception of the scum gathered from the juice in the defecator. In the lower part of the partition, between the defecator and the pan, B, there is a slide valve, *x*, which may be opened to allow the juice to be discharged from the defecator into the pan, B.

Steam is furnished to the evaporating pipes, *c c c*, within the several pans, by branches from the main pipe, F, which leads it from the boilers. Cocks or stop valves, G, are fitted to the steam pipes so that the steam can be shut off from either pan without interfering with the others. The water from the condensation of the steam in the several pans is carried back to the boilers by the pipe, H. In the battery is a discharge cock or valve, *d*. J is the strike box.

Rotary pumps, *a a'*, for passing the juice forward from one pan to another of the series, as the process advances, are arranged one under each of the divisions between the pans, A B C D: the discharge pipe from each pump leads forward to the next pan in the series, so that the contents of the defecator, A, may be discharged into B, those of B, into C, and those of C, into the battery, D.

Motion is communicated to these pumps by belts on the pulley, *e*, and the loose friction pulleys on the rods operated by the handles, *b b b*.

The operation of the train and treatment of the juice are as follows:—

In starting, the defecator, A, is charged with raw juice from the mill or juice boxes; the steam is let on, and when the juice has attained a temperature of about 150° Fah. the proper dose of lime for its defecation is added. As the heat of the juice increases, the albuminous matters rise to the top with many impurities in the form of scum, which is skimmed back into the trough, E, and there allowed to settle.

As soon as the juice has been properly defecated, the slide valve, *x*, is opened and the defecated juice allowed to run into pan, B, until the proper quantity is obtained, when the said valve is closed. Steam is then let on to pan, B, and the boiling and cleansing process begins therein and the impurities, as they rise, are brushed back into the defecator, and from thence into the trough, E. After the juice has been boiled a short time in the pan, B, it is discharged by means of the pump, *a'*, into the pan, C, and the pan, B, is replenished from the defecator, either through the slide valve, *x*, or the pump, *a*. Steam being then let on to the pan, C, the cleansing process proceeds therein as it previously did in B. As the juice in the pan, C, becomes thick and viscid, and does not readily throw off its impurities, a sufficient quantity of less concentrated juice is passed forward to it from the pan, B, and ebullition is increased and the cleansing proceeds again actively. The impurities as they rise in C, are brushed back to the pan, B, and from thence to the defecator, and thence to the trough, E.

When the juice has been properly cleansed of its mucilage and other impurities in the pan, C, it is passed forward to the battery, D, by the pump, *a''*, where it is concentrated to the sugar point, and whence it is discharged by a cock or valve, *d*, in the bottom, into the strike box, J. As soon as the sugar in the battery has been discharged into the strike box, the battery is recharged with sirup from the pan, C, by the pump, *a''*, and that pan replenished from the pan, B, by the pump, *a'*; from the defecator, A, by the pump, *a*, or valve, *x*; and the defecator, as soon as it is completely emptied, and *not before*, is again supplied from the juice box or mill, and thus the rotation is continued, the pans, A B and C, clarifying and preparing the juice for the battery, D.

It will be observed that in the process performed by this apparatus, the proper point of liming can always be maintained, from the fact that the whole of the juice so defecated in the defecator, A, is passed forward into the other pans of the series in succession, without any admixture with the raw juice, consequently giving to the sugar maker the means and facility of keeping an uniform temper in the cane juice from the beginning to the end of the crop; and from the defecator to the battery, the cane juice is treated continuously as a boiling mass, whereby a perfect separation of the albuminous princi-

ple can always be maintained before the sirup is concentrated to the sugar point in the battery, and hence are obviated the imperfect defecation caused by the too high liming of the juice, as in the ordinary fire or kettle train, and the imperfect clarification and cleansing of the juice, as in the isolated pans of the ordinary open steam train; as the result of this process, the finest quality of brown sugar that can be made is obtained.

Besides the improved result thus obtained by its use, there are other advantages in the working of the connected steam train, to wit: Its management is so extremely simple that *one-half* the attendants required to work other apparatuses are, in this arrangement, dispensed with; the duties of the attendants are rendered very light, for the labor of bucketting is dispensed with, and by "foaming" the pans but little brushing is needed to cleanse the juice completely.

Constant intercommunication can be kept up between the pans, and the juice can be thrown at will from one pan to another, to facilitate the cleansing, as it becomes thick and viscid.

The operation of the train can be expedited or retarded at pleasure, as it is always under the complete control of the sugar maker.

The connected steam train also economizes both time and fuel, it being evident that the necessary manipulation from one pan to another can be performed more expeditiously, and the loss of heat which attends the process in other apparatuses is obviated.

A crop of 515 hogsheads of sugar, made upon the principles embraced in this invention, classed as "choice"—the highest grade of brown sugar known in the New Orleans market, and commanding the highest price.

A working model of this train was exhibited at the Louisiana Industrial Fair, held at Baton Rouge in March last, where a certificate was awarded it "as possessing great facilities for making sugar, and having advantages over any other on exhibition and worthy a first premium."

Three sizes of these trains are manufactured, of the capacity to make 10, 15, and 20 hogsheads of sugar each, per day. As these trains are simple in construction, dispensing with the use of isolated clarifiers, settling tanks, bone black, vacuum pans, centrifugals, and other expensive paraphernalia heretofore required in connection with the ordinary train, they can be furnished to planters at very reasonable prices.

Messrs. Merrick & Sons, Philadelphia, are the authorized agents and manufacturers, to whom inquiries for information can be directed to their office, No. 36 Campstreet, New Orleans, or to either of the patentees.

The patent for this invention was granted to W. H. Gilbert, of Bayou Goula, and H. O. Ames, of New Orleans, La., on June 5th, 1860, through the Scientific American Patent Agency.

CHLORINE.

The value of chlorine to arts and manufactures rests principally upon its power to bleach or destroy color; and by its means, the manufacture of linen and cotton goods has been very much improved.

Chlorine was discovered by the celebrated Charles William Scheele, a Swedish chemist, during the latter part of the last century. Chlorine is so energetic that, if let loose upon the world, it is sure very quickly to unite with some one body or another; hence we never find it on the face of the earth in its primitive condition. Again, nearly all the compounds of chlorine are soluble in water; hence rain dissolves them out of the soil, and thus they pass by running streams, brooks and rivers into the sea, where they are found in great abundance.

The most notable compound of chlorine is the table salt of domestic use, which consists of 23 parts of a beautiful soft metal, called sodium, and 35 parts of chlorine, both of which can be separated from one another, and exhibited in their natural beauty. When chlorine is isolated, it takes the form of a vaporous gas, having a greenish yellow color; hence Sir Humphrey Davy gave it the name of chlorine, from the word *chloros*—light green.

A compound of chlorine and potash is most extensively used in the formation of friction matches. How much these household trifles add to our daily comfort all can tell.

In crowded hospitals, in dark and dank places, where

the matter of infectious miasma lurks, a little chlorine set free destroys the arch enemy on his own ground; hence chlorine is a most powerful disinfectant, and for this important discovery Dr. Carmichael Smith received from the English Parliament a large grant of money.

Chlorine gas is extracted from common salt thus: Place into a retort two ounces of salt, one and a half ounce of black oxyd of manganese, two and a half ounces of water; shake these together; then add gradually one and a quarter ounce of concentrated sulphuric acid, and boil the mixture with a gentle heat, and collect the chlorine gas that is generated in a jar over a pneumatic trough filled with warm water. In this state it has a suffocating color, and is very irritating to the trachea or throat valve; thus, wherever it is made, good ventilation is necessary.

There are many other compounds of chlorine used in chemical arts besides those named, such as hydrochloric acid, which consists of hydrogen and chlorine, and being mixed with nitric acid dissolves gold. It also enters into the manufacture of medicines, particularly of calomel. Thus have we shown briefly some of the uses of chlorine. It is but one, however, of a family of four similar bodies, all of which are to be found in the ocean.

SEPTIMUS PISSE.

GREAT CHURCHES.

The following is a table of the capacity of several large European churches, in which a square yard is allowed for four persons:—

	Persons.	Sq. yards.
St. Peter's, Rome.....	54,000	13,500
Milan Cathedral.....	37,000	9,250
St. Paul's, Rome.....	82,000	8,000
St. Paul's, London.....	25,600	6,400
St. Petronio, Bologna.....	24,400	6,100
Florence Cathedral.....	24,300	6,075
Antwerp Cathedral.....	24,000	6,000
St. Sophia's, Constantinople.....	23,000	5,750
St. John Lateran.....	22,900	5,725
Notre Dame, Paris.....	21,000	5,250
Pisa Cathedral.....	13,000	3,250
St. Stephen's, Vienna.....	12,400	3,100
St. Dominic's, Bologna.....	12,000	3,000
St. Peter's, Bologna.....	11,400	2,850
Cathedral of Sienna.....	11,000	2,750
St. Mark's, Venice.....	7,000	1,750

The piazza of St. Peter's, in its widest limits, allowing twelve persons to the square yard, holds 624,000; allowing four to the same, drawn up in military array, 202,000.

CELL LIFE.

[Prepared expressly for the Scientific American.]

Nature has taken upon herself so many and such varied forms, that it will be a rather startling assertion to unscientific readers to learn that all these, either as animals; from man down to the monad; or as vegetables, from an oak tree to a confervoid, are derivable from, and make their first appearance as, a minute mass of matter of a somewhat spherical form, and to med a cell.

If we are ever destined to solve the great problem to know what is life, it will undoubtedly be on the border land of Nature, where her two great kingdoms of animal and vegetable existence seem to approach each other—that there we shall make the first footsteps which shall eventually lead to the nearest relation to supreme wisdom that man shall be ever permitted to attain. It is this feeling, acknowledged or unacknowledged, that has ever acted as the spur to the investigating mind of the naturalist, and it is the knowledge of the existence of the power of learning that has secured for the patient student of Nature the respect of unscientific minds, and persons who could see no direct advantage to be gained from his painstaking search after that philosopher's stone of life which would make him feel that "knowledge is power." Perhaps no class of phenomena has excited a greater wonder, a purer joy, a sublimer interest among those who have been permitted even to catch a glimpse of them than the almost boundless field of discoveries which are revealed to us by the aid of the microscope, and the interest which they engender is due in no small degree to the fact, that they alone hold out any promise of ever leading us to a knowledge of the *beginning of life*.

We intend herein to give a comprehensive sketch of the primary forms of life in the vegetable and the animal, and any statements given may be implicitly relied on as being in accordance with the very latest