

brick above the gas consuming chamber; this construction is preferable for furnaces erected on land; but for those on barges an iron stack is better.

One cylinder, 60 feet long and 6 feet in diameter, will reduce to ashes each day the daily production of garbage in New York, or over 250 loads per diem, and the cost of it, complete with all its auxiliary parts and the engine to run it, will not exceed \$12,000.

Two smaller furnaces on barges—one for the North and one for the East River—would dispose of all the city garbage, even if the garbage and ashes were separated, at a cost of plant not exceeding \$25,000; and a still smaller one, erected on a barge, could be used for cremating dead animals, condemned meat, mattresses and clothing from emigrant ships and hospitals, etc., and could easily be removed about the harbor to any places where its services were required.

This furnace and the application of pulverized fuel, by which alone it could be operated, are covered by many patents that are controlled by the inventor.

For further particulars address Jacob J. Storer, Post Office box 773, New York.

Magnetic Separation of Iron Sand.

One of the American contributions for the Electrical Exhibition at Paris is a modification of Mr. Edison's magnetic separator for the treatment of iron sand found in large quantities on the south shore of Long Island and in other localities on sea coasts. According to Mr. Batchelor's statement to the Evening Post the Long Island sand contains 26 per cent of the finest iron known. Innumerable attempts have been made to separate the sand, and magnetic plates have been used, but with no success on account of the presence of titanite iron, a substance which spoils iron. Edison discovered that titanite iron was less magnetic than the pure iron particles, and constructed his separator with that fact in view. The sand falls a distance of four feet in a thin stream from a slit in a V-shaped box holding about a ton. Under this box is a receiver divided into two compartments, the dividing partition being placed nearly under the slit in the sand reservoir and parallel to it. If no magnet is brought into play the sand all falls into one side of the box; but when a powerful magnet is brought near enough to act upon the falling shower, the pure iron particles are deflected in their fall and fly on the other side of the partition. The particles of titanite of iron are not attracted equally with the iron and are not deflected sufficiently to fall into the compartment with the pure iron. A company has been formed for the extraction of iron from Long Island sand, and is now at work with its first machine at Quogue, near Moriches, on the Great South Bay. This machine, which cost \$700 to make, is managed by one boy, who keeps six men and two carts busy bringing sand for his hopper. It treats one hundred tons of sand a day, producing about twenty tons of pure iron, costing one dollar a ton to produce and selling for six dollars.

The British Patent Laws.

In the House of Commons, June 15, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, President of the Board of Trade, speaking on behalf of the Government, expressed his approval of the principle of a bill introduced by Mr. Anderson (Advanced Liberal), member for Glasgow, for amending the patent laws in the sense of a large reduction in fees and the extension of the time of patents, in imitation of the American system. He said the Government would be glad to legislate upon the subject at the earliest possible moment, but it would be impossible to do so at this session of Parliament. All the speakers on the subject dwelt upon the effect of the American patent system in fostering inventions.

The Increasing Cost of Paupers and Criminals.

The California Legislature recently published a report prepared by Chancellor Hartson, of Napa, Chairman of the Committee on Prisons, which contain some startling statistics. The cost of maintaining criminals and paupers is shown as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year/Category and Cost. Rows include 1850-1870 population and pauper/criminal costs.

It is calculated that the census for 1880, when completed, will show an outlay of over \$20,000,000 per annum for the cost of maintaining criminals and infirm people. This does not include the enormous outlay occasioned by the arrest and trial of criminals, but simply to their maintenance in prison.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. MONROE, of Annapolis, states that the ordinary fruit acids, such as those contained in apples, tomatoes, rhubarb, lemons, etc., all acted upon tin. Some cider which he examined, and which had been stored in a tin fountain, contained one hundred and seventeen milligrammes of metallic tin to the liter in solution. One case was given where persons eating fruit preserved in tin cans were made violently sick, and tin only was found in the fruit. Corrosion of tin pipe by water was referred to, and it was suggested that the corrosion was due to the vegetable acids in the water.

Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

MUNN & CO., Editors and Proprietors.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT NO. 37 PARK ROW, NEW YORK.

O. D. MUNN. A. E. BEACH.

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The Scientific American Supplement is a distinct paper from the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. THE SUPPLEMENT is issued weekly. Every number contains 16 octavo pages, uniform in size with SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Terms of subscription for SUPPLEMENT, \$5.00 a year, postage paid, to subscribers Single copies, 10 cents. Sold by all news dealers throughout the country. Combined Rates.—The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and SUPPLEMENT will be sent for one year postage free, on receipt of seven dollars. Both papers to one address or different addresses as desired. The safest way to remit is by draft postal order, or registered letter. Address MUNN & CO., 37 Park Row, N. Y.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1881.

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No. 287,

For the Week ending July 2, 1881.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Detailed table of contents for the supplement, including sections on Engineering and Mechanics, Technology and Chemistry, Medicine and Hygiene, Art, Architecture, etc., with page numbers.

BOILER EXPLOSION NOTES.

The engravings of the boiler explosion at Messrs. Gaffney & Co.'s works, Philadelphia, not being ready, we are obliged to postpone them, together with our report, until our next issue.

We made a brief allusion last week to the peculiar finding of the coroner's jury in the above case. The explosion, it will be remembered, took place June 1st; the boiler was one of a nest of three, of cylindrical form, placed side by side, each 30 feet long and 36 inches diameter, with flat cast iron heads of the usual construction.

The jury found that the explosion was due to the improper use of cast iron in the flat head of the boiler; they also considered that the Hartford Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company was especially censurable for the incompetence and negligence of its agents who inspected and certified to the safety of the boiler; and they urgently recommended that the proper authorities take measures to prevent the recurrence of so terrible a disaster.

On the list of the jurors we find the names of J. B. Fontaine, of Fontaine, Abbott & Co., machinists; N. W. Williams, President of the Keystone Council, engineer; Samuel R. Marshall, formerly of the Wilkesbarre, Pa., Machine Works; J. Shield Wilson, Superintendent of Neafie & Levy's Penn Boiler Works, Kensington; Arthur Orr, of the firm of Orr, Hess & Co., machinists; and J. W. Nystrom, civil engineer.

We shall examine the subject more fully hereafter, and will now only remark that the facts, so far as gathered by us, strongly indicate that the jury rendered an erroneous verdict, and did not avail themselves of the means at their hands to verify practically the correctness of their conclusions. This is the more to be wondered at, because the gentlemen composing the jury were more than ordinarily qualified to make a searching investigation, and place before the public a full and correct explanation of the causes of the disaster. Any reliable information thus disclosed would be of importance to the "proper authorities" and to steam users in general.

The jury assign no reasons and point to no facts to warrant their verdict. From all the information we can gather it seems pretty certain that the explosion was due to an over-pressure of steam, perhaps caused by inoperative safety valves and closing of the steam stop valves leading to the other boilers and to the dye works. It is, we believe, undisputed that most of the stop valves examined after the explosion were found to be closed.

Here were three boilers, all substantially alike, all having flat cast iron heads, all recently inspected and certified as safe. One of them, the newer and better boiler, explodes; the other two remain in their places intact and as capable, apparently, of useful service as ever. The jury had the opportunity of submitting the remaining boilers to a thorough test, and of determining on the spot, in the most convincing manner, whether the inspectors whom they complain of had really been remiss in their duty, and whether the jury's notion that flat cast iron heads are unsafe, was really correct. The omission of so obvious a duty detracts greatly from the value of the jury's finding, and makes it look as if they simply jumped at a conclusion.

Flat cast iron boiler heads are used on hundreds of boilers in all parts of the country, and many years of trial have proved them to be safe and serviceable. They generally stand better than the wrought iron parts of the boiler. While it is true that the concave cast head is the stronger form, and is preferable, still it was absurd for the Philadelphia jury to alarm their neighbors by proclaiming that all flat heads are unsafe. They should first have tested and demonstrated the truth of the matter.

As for the Hartford Company it has rendered invaluable service to steam users in the past; its agents and inspectors enjoy the reputation of being competent, reliable men, unlikely to make gross blunders in their inspections or certificates; and in the absence of the practical tests which the jurors might have made, their censure is of little account.

On the 10th of June another disastrous boiler explosion took place at Pottsville, Pa., in the large rolling mill of Atkins Brothers. Three persons were killed and six or more scalded. The exploded boiler was of cylindrical form, 26½ feet long, 30 inches diameter, with a flat cast iron head. Thirty-eight other boilers of similar pattern are used in this establishment, and all unite to form one general steam system, by which the blowers, the rolls, and other machinery of the concern are driven. All the boilers are heated by the products of combustion that rise from the puddling furnaces; the boilers being suspended over the furnaces by arched girders. Each end of each boiler is suspended by hook and staple to the girder. The exploded boiler broke completely in two at a point five or six feet distant from its front end, where the products of combustion first impinge upon the boilers, and where there are the greatest alternations of temperature, due to the opening and closing of the puddling furnace doors. We are preparing engravings and a full report on this occurrence, which we shall shortly publish. According to the theory of the Philadelphia jury the flat cast iron head ought to have blown out—but it did not.

On the 12th of June the boiler of the large and powerful wrecking steamer, B. & J. Baker, of Norfolk, Va., exploded when the vessel was near Cape Henly. Three persons were killed and several badly injured. The boiler was of cylindrical form, with return tubes, containing two tubular furnaces, the tubes of steel 28 inches in diameter. The boiler was 16 feet long, 7 feet diameter. The explosion is believed to be due to corrosion of one of the steel tubes which collapsed. We are preparing a report with engravings which will soon be published.