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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

PRESERVING FRUITS.

THE preserving of fruits is a business which might advantageously engage the attention of fruitraisers and others in this Territory, for even in these northern portions, peaches, cherries, pears, and small fruits generally do well. Canned fruit, properly put up, is delicious in Winter and in Spring and early Summer, and fruit canned in this city we have found far superior in flavor to that imported.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* has a chapter on the preservation of fruits by Alden's process of pneumatic evaporation, which may be an excellent method where the quantities of fruit are very large, but can not possibly be so good a way as canning the fresh fruit. Near San Lorenzo, Alamedo county, Cal., is an establishment for preserving fruit by the Alden process, extensively employed in Maryland and other eastern States. The following conveys an idea of this process and the results:

This process consists substantially in the application to substances treated of a heated air-blast, characterized by certain degrees or stages of humidity, force and temperature, so adapted as to effect simultaneously the following results.

First (chemically)—An artificial maturing to saccharine matter of the amylaceous or starchy contents of the fruit, so far as practicable, together with a firm or chemical binding of as much moisture as possible in the condition known to chemists as hydrate, in which it can be no longer an agent of fermentation or decay.

Second (mechanically)—The evaporation of the water not chemically fixed as hydrate, with a rapidity accelerated by the warm and humid blast, in such a peculiar manner as to extract the water simultaneously and equally from all parts of the material treated, without impairing its texture, and other properties by undue heat or by parching dryness of air, which would drying off the fixed water, exhaust and aroma, without reducing starchy or saccharine ingredients to gum or caramel and without increasing or hardening the material to the condition described by the terms "dried" or "desiccated."

Third (economically)—A product proof against decay or change, enhanced in ripeness, sweetness, richness and solubility, characterized by its natural color, structure and fresh aroma, and by virtue of the fixed moisture or hydrate occupying its pores, incapable of absorbing, on the one hand, penetrated and injured—as dried substances are—by the moisture of damp weather, or damp places or climates, or, on the other hand, of being reduced in a dry atmosphere, to a parched and brittle consistency, except in the case of such esculents as meats, fish and such vegetables as rhubarb, which are replete with starchy and sibelous matter, and which necessarily assume a brittle consistency when exhausted of free moisture. The process is essentially distinct from that of dessication in its chemical principles and practical results. It is a process which not only forestalls decay, and which not only seizes and perpetuates the fresh flavor, color and texture of the article (animal or vegetable) subjected to it; but, which, in doing these things, at the same time carries out the organic process of ripening itself to an artificial perfection, on the same principles incompletely used by nature and with a correspondent increase of the nutritive product. The means employed to produce these results are three fold, namely: rapid circulation of air, accurately adapted and graduated heat, and at all times a considerable proportion of humidity. It will be noticed that each of these points stands directly contrary both to the process of desiccation or kiln-drying and to that of ordinary air-drying.

It is well known that the starch and sugar of plants are almost identical in their chemical constituents, and that starch develops into sugar by the aid of acids, both in the natural ripening of plants and in such artificial processes as the conversion of potato starch into grape-sugar, by the aid (but not consumption) of sulphuric acid, which is now prosecuted on a commercial scale in Germany. The conversion of the grape into the richly-saccharine raisin is a familiar instance of the super-maturation of fruit by semi-artificial means, after reaching its full natural maturity in connection with the plant. This process of super-maturation can be artificially stimulated, so as to convert the mucous constituents of any organic product largely into saccharine matter, in a very few hours, with a result analogous to the "raisining" of the grape. In other words, this wonderfully enriching change, which crude art can only effect in certain specially adapted products, such as the grape, fig and prune, and that under certain precise climatic conditions, is now found practicable by scientific but simple apparatus, with any organic product containing amylaceous or starchy matter, and in any part of the world. The apple, peach, or tomato, for instance, can be actually "raisined," according to its kind, as the grape; and it would be natural to infer that, by the same scientific aid, the "raisining" of the grape, fig, prune, etc., may be dispatched with like celerity, and proportional improvement of the product in point of both richness and freshness, especially the latter.

Here is a description of the mechanical arrangements and modus operandi—

In the works are five evaporators all of which are kept in operation day and night, each requiring the services of six men. The heating apparatus is in the basement of the building and consists of a furnace under each evaporator. The fire is built within an iron box, on the outside of which are projecting points of iron to give a radiating influence of the heat. The principal part of the apparatus consists of a vertical chamber or shaft built on the same principle as a hotel elevator. It is about 20 feet in height, containing 50 wire trays (or screens on which the fruit is placed. These trays are 4½ inches apart and are moved upward every six minutes by an endless chain. The heating apparatus is placed under this chamber, from which currents of air, heated to any required temperature, generally 210 degrees Fahrenheit, pass up through and around the frames. On each frame is spread, say, twenty pounds of fruit. The lowest frame is first placed in the chamber, directly over the heat, at the bottom of the shaft, where it remains for six minutes. It is then moved up 4½ inches, and another frame of fruit is placed beneath it. At regular intervals of six minutes the whole series of frames are moved upward 4½ inches and a fresh frame is put on beneath them until the frames are all in, containing say (if apples), 21 bushels of fruit. At this time, the shaft being full, one frame is taken off at the top, and one put in at the bottom, every six minutes, evaporating 21 bushels ready for packing, every six hours. If apples the 21 bushels contain 840 pounds (42 quarts) water, which is carried off every six hours in vapor. All the most necessarily pass up and around the fruit as the moisture is taken gradually from it, enveloping it in the form of a cloud of vapor. The pores of the fruit are thus kept open, free for the circulation and exit of vapor, until all the free water is removed; the remainder (16 per cent.) being held as hydrate. It is well known that fruits will not ferment, ripen, and sweeten up in strictly dry weather, nor in cold wet weather. The evaporated fruit follows the law of nature in this respect. It does not become, therefore, a dried fruit, as nothing, without, can be dried in vapor without pressure. The product per week (16 apples) will be about 3,360 pounds evaporated fruit, worth 20 cents per pound, and 1,120 pounds evaporated peaches worth 8 cents per pound.

It is proposed to convert the cores and skins into a fine quality of apple jelly. The cost of each of the evaporators ranges from $1,400 to $1,500, the price depending entirely on the size. Further information can be had by addressing the proprietors, at San Francisco, or at Alden's Evaporator, San Lorenzo, Alameda county, Cal.

Any one wishing to experiment, generally would call that forequate, and any farmer might make the experiment a paying one, although the Alden plan would be the more profitable and the more accurately.

BURNING UP.—The settlers are certainly being burned up in places. Our dispatches tell us of fires burning over an area of fifty square miles on Long Island, with one settlement swept away entirely. These country fires are something dreadful to think of, and may fitly take their place in history, by the side of the terrible city fires of Chicago and Boston, as well as the rural fire at Peshtigo.

CONFERENCE.

President Brigham Young:

Dear Brother—I arrived here on the 4th of July, and have been on the road to Job's Creek, Moyenoppy, where I had been invited by Bro. Joseph W. Young to act as guide to the first company of emigrants, and then to wait till further orders. I remained there till the last of June, and hearing of the death of Joseph W. Young, I returned with Bro. Hughes's company as he had been ordered to make settlement on the Little Colorado, and could not find a suitable location. I visited seven of the Moquis towns, and found them all well pleased with the idea of our becoming their neighbors.

While at the Moyenoppy, with the help of Bro. Milton Burr, we put in thirteen acres of early garden vegetables, etc. Several of the company remarked that they never saw a crop more promising than it when we left. This we watered from a large, fine spring of good water, which we conducted over the ground in troughs. They both have revived and shot guns. I saw the boy Cotton shot out of his horse by Butcher. Both Cotton boys came there and quarreled. I saw B. W. Taylor shoot at J. F. Tasker.

J. F. TASKER was then sworn and said Mr Butcher shot twice or three times at me when I went down. I then went back and saddled a horse and went down again, and saw the old man Cotton go out of the hollow (ravine), and Butcher following him with a gun in his hand. Old man Cotton waved his hands for me to go away, and I went and harnessed up the horse to the wagon.

MRS. MARY JANE COTTON. I and the little boy went down to Butcher's; Butcher shot the old gentleman twice (meaning her husband). I begged him not to shoot, but he shot him again. There was another man who shot him afterward; I did not know who he was; Mr. Cotton was 52 years of age, Gabriel 19 and Bert 21.

WM. KIRK said he went down to Mr. Butcher's on business, and had a chat with him: we had words; he said I took his pole; I denied it flatly; he struck me and I struck him back; he drove me back up the canyon, and told me I had better go and get Cotton's hand, and he would clean them out; I walked backward with a stone in each hand for defense. The old man, Cotton, was down at the cross fence; don't know why he was there; when I got back we then went down to Butcher's and had some words with him about the morning's fight; I left Cotton at Butcher's talking, and went down to Mumford's, when Cotton followed me immediately afterward. The eldest boy came down and told us that his brother was shot; old man Cotton and the boy then went up around the north side of Butcher's house.

CALEB COTTON, a boy between nine and ten years of age, said the man beside Butcher came up and shot his father. He did not see his father shoot.

SARAH C. BUTCHER said that Mr. Kirk came down and talked rough, as though he wanted to fight, so the children said. She also said that Kirk hit Butcher in the mouth. Butcher then picked up Mr. Kirk and threw him down, and I and Mr. Gee took him off and would not let him strike Kirk. Butcher followed Kirk quite a distance. The fuss was about poles. Kirk said, I'll go and fetch some one that will soon settle you. Butcher called to Kirk and Cotton and his son William came again on horseback, and Butcher said, "Billy, you had better get down and settle that affair. I never allow anyone to strike me in the mouth; get down and I'll whip you." Cotton spoke up and said: "You told him to bring down Cotton and his hoed; I am cooper, and I am always ready for anything you want." Butcher said: "I ain't talking to you; I don't want anything to do with you, so you had better go back." The boy Cotton then got off his horse and they both had words and quarreled, and Cotton called Butcher a liar. They quarreled some while. Cotton then went down to Miss Cole's where Kirk had some hoed potatoes. Kirk, Cotton and Butcher coming with a shotgun. Asked if he was at Mumford's, then Butcher said, "You are a lying son of a b——, if he is there." She drew his pistol to shoot, but it snapped. Butcher then struck him with a rifle barrelled shotgun and he fell off of the horse. Bert, Butcher and Cotton's three girls came and asked where his father was, and no answer was given, except I told him I believed his brother was shot; he was then in the road and fired two shots into the house. Old man Cotton arrived just at that time, and wanted to know who had been shot. Butcher said to Wm. Taylor, "Take care of that that man Bert Cotton, Taylor." Told Bert to go into the house; he went down two steps and stood there. Old man Cotton then began to talk, and called Butcher a liar, and son of a b——, and said, "I don't want anything of me you can have it." He then fired two shots at Butcher, when Butcher shot and killed the old man. I was sitting with Bert, who was trying to get the gun from him. Butcher shot the old man Cotton, who was lying beside the steps. Then Butcher turned and shot Bert with a deer finger, because, as he said, Bert had tried to kill him. Butcher never left the house. Very few words were spoken to the table. Since Judge Harrison and Gee were at present, it is quarter of a mile from Butcher's to Mumford's place. All was over in about 15 minutes. Butcher stood outside when he shot Cotton; that is Cotton was between the house and Butcher when he was shot. Butcher shot Bert once; he stood once on the bed and once by the bed. I and my daughter had got the gun from Bert, and he was sitting on a stool when he was first shot.

MARY BUTCHER said I didn't see any one but Bert killed. I ran into the cellar and did when the row commenced. Bert was putting water on his head, and took some in his mouth from a cup as I was passing with water. He said, "Oh, my brother!" Butcher, Taylor and Gee were there. Thompson came just as the man Cotton came up. Butcher shot twice; Cotton fired one shot; they both had revolvers and shot guns. I saw the boy Cotton shot out of his horse by Butcher. Both Cotton boys came there and quarreled. I saw B. W. Taylor shoot at J. F. Tasker.

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