

perforated bottom covered with straw, through which the liquid filtered. The carbonate was dissolved and the clear liquor was then evaporated to dryness in iron pans. As it approached dryness it was stirred with iron rods, which broke it up into round lumpy masses of a pearly white color. This was the pearl-ash of commerce. It was used in pharmacy and for various purposes where the potash was too impure.

The saleratus required a more careful and tedious preparation. The manufacture of it was carried on in a separate building from the "ashery." One apartment of this building was made air-tight, and was fitted up with shelves. The pearlash was crushed with iron beetles until very fine, and then put into little boxes, which were placed on the shelves. Carbonic acid was heated in the oven of a furnace, usually outside of the main building, and the only exit for the carbonic acid gas from the oven was through pipes which led into the air-tight chamber. This gas acted upon the pearlash. After about a week's exposure to the action of the gas, the substance in the boxes was again exposed to the effects of the gas. This operation was repeated several times, and then the material, now termed saleratus, was packed in small airtight boxes for local use, or for shipment. Its principal use was for making bread, where it took the place of baking soda, which was not then known.

The "ashery" of early days was a profitable and interesting establishment, both to the settler in the country and to the village inhabitant. To the former it afforded a market for an otherwise useless product, and to many villagers it gave employment; to all it was a place of special interest, being in those primitive times the only manufacturing establishment outside of the city. Thus we see that an industry, which is now almost forgotten, was at one time a means of giving our ancestors great aid, at a time, too, when they most needed aid, that is, in the days of the opening up this country.

THOS. E. DAY. '03.