

large farm, and kept a store out of which he paid his workmen. In the winter, the season when travelling was most convenient, he sent out men through the neighborhood to buy the ashes. Each man had a team and a sleigh on which was a large box. The price paid for the ashes was about ten cents a bushel, and considering the little trouble in making the ashes, and the worthlessness of the wood to the farmer, these sales were the most profitable, from a pecuniary point of view, of any on the farm. Very often, in summer, a settler requiring a little ready money, hauled a load of ashes into town with his team of oxen over the corduroy roads and made a speedy sale. The importance of this industry can be understood from the fact that the export of the manufactured articles—potash, pearlash and saleratus—amounted to about two and a half million dollars annually, at a time when the population of the country was very small. The principal buyer was England. Much of the manufactured products were put to use in this country. There were three stages in the process of manufacturing the three articles made: potash was obtained from the crude ashes, pearlash from the potash, and saleratus from the pearlash. Potash had to be made before either of the others could be produced.

For the manufacture of potash the ashes were put into large wooden cisterns, with a quantity of quicklime and covered with water. The whole was well stirred up and then allowed to settle; the next day the lye was drawn off and evaporated to dryness in iron pots, whence the name, "potash." The solid substance left was called black salts. This was preserved in a tank until a sufficiency of it was obtained to fill a five hundredweight cask. Then it was put into an oven and fused at a red heat. After cooling it had a greyish color and it was then ready for shipment as potash.

Its uses were many. As a fertilizer it was in great demand by the landowners of England. When the manufacture of potash had almost ceased on account of the great demand for wood, a substitute was found for it in phosphate, and later in the guano of South America. Potash is indispensable to the soap-boiler and glass-maker. It also enters largely into the manufacture of gunpowder. In obtaining the pearlash from the potash, the latter was again treated with cold water in a wooden cistern, having a