

through which the ley should be filtered a second time before going into the ordinary feeder. It requires great care to make good Ashes from mucky land, and unless the Ashes be very clean the same lime should not be used to make over five barrels, if the maker wishes to secure first sorts.

Ashes from timber newly cut in the fall are much stronger than at any other time. Indeed, after wood has been some time cut, and becomes dry and decaying, the ashes are of little value. The strongest Ashes come from soft or swamp elm, black ash, and maple. There is a proportion of nitre in the ley which runs from Ashes, which becomes much stronger in the last run of the leaches, and renders the ley weak. The potash made from such ley is smooth and glassy, and not strong. Strong potash should have as coarse a grain as sugar. The application of water to the leaches should be gradual, the quantity being regulated by the dryness of the Ashes.

To manufacture Ashes well is a nice process, and when the maker lacks practical knowledge, an experienced assistant should, by all means, be secured.

The following is a repetition of our circular on this subject last year, to which we have nothing to add, except that the weight of barrels should never be less than one-eighth of the gross weight, or they will not bring the highest price. If the gross weight be 5 cwt. or 560 lbs., the tare or weight of cask should be 80, and as a general rule, 80 is as near as can be guessed.

The usual cases of inferiority in Ashes are, in the first place, dirty leys,—the leaching process not being sufficiently perfect, and the raw material in many cases being field ashes mixed with a large proportion of dirt.

The next cause is adulterating the ashes with lime, salt, sand, &c. Salt should in no case be used, and lime only, in the leaches. On no account should stones, wood, raw ashes, lime, straw, or dirt, be put in to fill up a barrel.

The next cause is using weak leys. The last run of the leaches, when not able to float an egg or a potato, should never be boiled, but kept to wet the next leaches.

Another cause is bad barrels. Whisky barrels, or green and unseasoned casks, the wood of which contains moisture of any kind, will cause the ashes to deteriorate rapidly. White Oak and White Ash casks are much preferable, and Red Oak should never be used where it can be avoided—being all well seasoned.

Ashes should be emptied by coolers into the barrel, two coolers being just sufficient to fill one barrel, and there should be as little breaking of Pot Ashes as possible, as the more they are broken the more rapidly do they deteriorate by the action of the air. Ashes should never on any occasion be packed hot into the barrels.

If the ashes have begun to melt before packing, the cakes may be rubbed with dry slacked lime to prevent further melting, but lime or raw ashes should never be thrown loosely over them, as this injures the appearance, and must be separated in inspection.

Barrels must weigh at least 75 lbs. when thoroughly seasoned, and they should be accurately weighed, and that weight legibly marked on the barrel before packing—They should be packed quite full, and should be covered with solid round hoops to the extent of two-thirds of the barrel. The dimensions of the barrels used should be 20 to 22 inches diameter of head, and 30 to 32 length of stave, larger or smaller being condemned by law. The mark should be quite legible, and only one plain mark and number should be on each; as when there are two or three marks, there is more liability to confusion. The mark should be the maker's or owner's initials, as when the initials of a consignor are used, several lots may get mixed.

After packing, the barrels should be well coopered, with three shingle nails in the end hoops of each, to prevent the heads from falling out, and put in a dry place where they will not be exposed to moisture.

The grades by law established are, first, second, and third sorts, and then unbrandable Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, each grade being an additional eighth off the selling price of Firsts. Thus, unbrandable No. 4 has seven eighths of the price of Firsts deducted, and No. 5 would sell for just nothing.

Firsts Ashes should contain 75 per cent of pure alkali, at least.

The information in the preceding article is derived partly from experienced manufacturers, but chiefly from the Ashes Inspectors, whose willingness to do all in their power to aid and encourage the manufacture of Ashes, is deserving of praise. Nothing is said here of the manufacture of Pearl Ashes, which can only be undertaken by a person of capital having the necessary buildings and apparatus, and who would, of course, procure experienced assistance.

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