

Many claims are made for this method of steam generation. It is obvious there should be a considerable saving in fuel and/or a much greater percentage of heat units available for work. The generator is said to be much cheaper than existing boilers, to weigh less, and take up only about one-half of the floor space. A very small amount of water is in the system at one time, and the danger of the disastrous boiler explosions experienced with the present day boiler is eliminated as, if a tube fails, the pressure will simply ease off.

The success of the commercial unit erected in Germany, and the reduction in size and weight, the gain in steam generation efficiency, and the freedom from explosion dangers, emphasizes the importance of this development for marine purposes in all classes of ships. Large savings in space now occupied by boilers and stokers, weight of equipment required, weight and amount of fuel and water required, and a greater cruising radius are indicated. Taking into consideration the claims made for the advantages of powdered coal as a fuel coupled with the advantages noted above, it is apparent that the efficiency of a steam unit of this type will rival that of a Diesel Engine using oil.

A Criticism which has always been made of the internal combustion engine, is that most of the heat which is generated is waste heat, and the difficulty is in getting rid of it sufficiently quickly to avoid overheating. In the steam engine every effort is made by careful jacketing &c to conserve the heat and use it for power purposes. This is the natural method, and it is apparent that a change back from oil to steam must soon take place.

In this country our resources in Coal are great. The steady encroachment of oil has had a very adverse effect upon the coal industry. Any proposal, which will enable our great resources in Coal to be used to greater advantage merits our close attention. Nearly every one is interested in the utilization of saturated or superheated steam, either as a heating medium and /or for purposes of power production. To them, and to their particular problems the development of the Benson Steam Generator and its application for the production of cheap electric power for all purposes must be a matter of financial interest.