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OIL BURNERS FOR HEATING HOUSES TESTED OUT BY THE M. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, Nov. 18.—In response to a general demand for information on oil burners for house heating the Department of Agriculture has tested a number of oil burners of different design and prepared information to assist the home owner in deciding if it is advisable to install such a burner and the type to install. Heating with such burners appeals to many home owners because of the relief from furnace attendance, dirt, the uncertainties of coal supply and the ease of heat regulation.

Oil fuels are commercially known in most sections as furnace oil, distillate fuel oil, gas oil and fuel oil. The common range in gravity is for furnace oil 38 to 40 degrees, distillate fuel oil 38 to 40 in some sections, and 33 to 36 and 27 to 35 in others, gas oils 28 to 39 and fuel oil 24 to 28 degrees, all on what is called the A. P. I. scale. The name of the oil does not always indicate its gravity. One should know the range in gravity of oil that a burner will use satisfactorily and use this information rather than trade names in purchasing oil. More heat units per dollar of cost can be secured from the low gravity, heavier oils but they can be used only with burners adapted for them.

There are on the market a number of burners for use in house heaters, varying in the method employed to prepare the fuel for combustion. They may be divided into two general classes—the vaporizing, which includes the gravity-feed type, and the atomizing, which includes those in which the oil is broken up by mechanical or spray devices.

Guides in Selection of Burners.

In selecting a burner it is well to secure in advance all of the information possible, keeping in mind experiences of other purchasers, and not to seek the "best" burner, but rather the one that is handled by a reliable organization. It is safe to conclude that such an organization will handle at least a reasonably good product.

A number of items should be considered in selecting an oil burner. The reliability of the local representative and stability of his business are important. A first grade burner improperly installed, or without opportunity of procuring service, will be unsatisfactory. One should know the grade of fuel which the burner is capable of burning. Tests show that the burners which burn the relatively low grades of oils attain the greatest economy.

The type of fuel available in the community is to be kept in mind in selecting a burner. A burner which is noisy is highly objectionable. The purchaser may insist on a noise clause in his contract, so that in the event that the noise proves unbearable after a reasonable trial the contractor will remove the burner and relieve the purchaser of all obligations. Burners differ in the amount of cleaning and attention required. Some buyers insist upon a burner which may readily be removed and allow the replacement of grates in order to return to coal burning in the event that the oil burner should fail.

Cost an Essential Item.

Cost is, of course, an important consideration in selection. The ordinary gravity-feed vaporizing type requires only simple equipment and for some types costs less than \$50. However, these burners require the higher-priced distillates and burn them with relatively low efficiency. Also, from the standpoint of convenience, the vaporizing types are not as satisfactory, in general, as the atomizing type.

Some vaporizing types of burners have the outward appearance of an atomizing type—that is a motor and full automatic control. In some instances the cost is equal to the cost of the atomizing burners. At least one of this type is priced as high as several hundred dollars. Its combustion is considerably more efficient than that of the simplest type, but the fuel recommend for it is the higher-priced distillate.

With the atomizing type the equipment is more elaborate and the cost therefore runs higher than for the vaporizing types. Atomizing burners, installed, range in cost from about \$400 to \$1,000, including a fair-sized oil storage tank.

An oil burner will not be satisfactory unless the whole heating plant is designed and laid out according to the accepted principles of heating. This means (referring to hot water, steam or vapor) that the radiation be properly proportioned, that the pipe lines be of proper size and free from pocketing, and that suitable means for the removal of condensation and venting of air be provided. The size of boiler must correspond to the load imposed on it.

Perhaps the best way to compare costs is on the basis of the number of

gallons of oil which are equivalent to a ton of coal. The Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture investigated the comparative consumption of coal and oil with small round boilers such as are found in an average dwelling house.

From these investigations it was learned that one short ton of coal is the equivalent of from about 150 to 175 gallons of oil fuel. Such a comparison involves only the fuel cost. A true comparison should include many more items. The cost of the burner installation may be several hundred dollars, and interest and depreciation must be charged against the oil burner. On a small installation these fixed charges alone may represent a large percentage of the cost of the fuel. The cost of the auxiliary power must be added, that is, the gas or electricity or both depending on the type of burner.

As against this the principal argument advanced for the oil burner is its convenience, comfort and cleanliness. The employment of an attendant for an oil-burning heating plant in the home is unnecessary. As to cleanliness, it is maintained that with the use of oil burners the cost of cleaning and redecorating is greatly lessened. As compared with soft coal this is undoubtedly true, but an oil burner out of adjustment may produce a quantity of soot that will permeate the house in a very short time.

In the average-sized house where no great saving in furnace attendance can be shown, the cost of heating with oil is almost invariably greater than the cost of heating with coal—all things considered.

DIVER LOST HIS LIFE AT BATHURST

**Boat Upset After His
Helmet Had Been Re-
moved Throwing Him
Overboard.**

Bathurst, Nov. 17.—One of the town's most popular citizens, David Crosby, lost his life by drowning, this morning, in the Middle River about a quarter of a mile above the bridge leading from town to the C. N. R. station.

Mr. Crosby was employed as diver to repair a leak in the Bathurst water main leading under the river from the pumping station to the town stand pipe. He was in a diver's suit and had been lowered successfully and after a while signalled to be brought to the surface. This was done. After he was above water he stated that he had not located the pipe. They shifted position and again let him down into the water and he was later brought up and gave a signal to have his helmet opened. This was done and he conversed with the town engineer, Fred Bateman, and it was decided not to do anything further at that time as the weather was becoming rough. Just then a squall half filled the boat and another one sent it under, the attendants thus losing control of the pump by means of which air was furnished to the diver.

Fred Bateman, the engineer, and Jerome Arseneau scrambled on top of the overturned boat and made a gallant attempt to pull up the diver but were unable to raise him as his suit having filled with water from the open helmet the weight was too heavy for them. Arseneau could not swim and was carried away a considerable distance on the overturned boat.

Bateman called for help to Jack Arseneau, town teamster, who was on the shore and who rang in a fire alarm. The brigade responded quickly and Crosby was rescued from the deep water and taken ashore. Medical aid was summoned and Dr. R. G. Duncan did everything possible to revive the man but life was extinct.

The unfortunate young man was a returned soldier with a brilliant military record being a sergeant in C. Company of the famous 26th New Brunswick Battalion and having won the Military Medal. He was a member of the Bathurst senior hockey team playing defence and was one of the best hockey players in the Maritimes.

Mr. Crosby came here from Charlottetown about four years ago and has been in the employ of the Bathurst Co. Limited since taking up his residence here. He was 30 years of age and is survived by his wife and three small children. The remains will be taken to his former home in Charlottetown on the Maritime Express tomorrow morning.

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R-6



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