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—OF AN—

EDITORIAL

WHICH APPEARED IN THE HOTEL WORLD

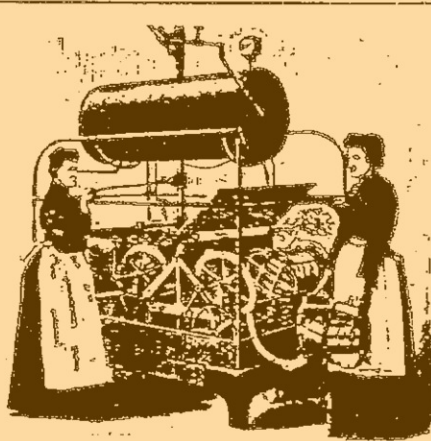
NOV. 3rd. 1894.

EVOLUTION OF A DISHWASHER

A Review of How a Crude Invention Has Been Developed Into a Perfect Machine

Fifteen years ago the writer of these lines heard a rumor among the hotel employees of Chicago that a man in this city had invented a machine which would wash dishes. For some time nothing more than this rumor was

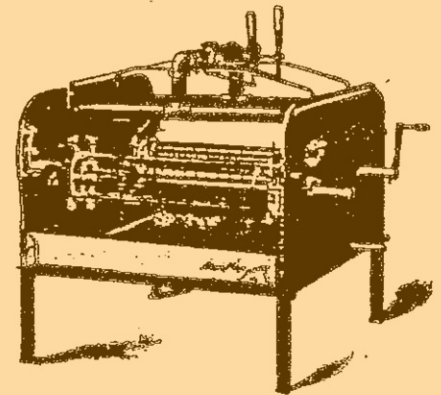
to a view of this wonderful machine, a sample copy of which was standing amidst the junk in a West Side range manufacturer's factory. The only illustration of this machine extant is reproduced here is No. 1. It was a formidable looking affair, with timber enough in it to build a good sized barn, the supporting beams being 4x4 inches and at least ten feet in height. It had been abandoned, the inventor, an old gentleman named Haskins, evidently



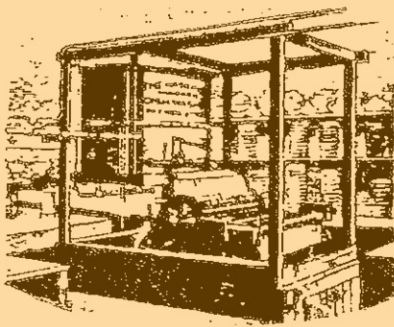
Second Machine

giving up in despair when the practical difficulties developed in actual operation came to the surface. The machine in addition to its cumbersome and difficult method of work, took a vast amount of space and an ocean of water. However, Mr. Haskins subsequently again tackled the machine, finally got men interested financially, put some machine into use, partially successful, and showed at least that Haskins Dishwasher could be made practical. Several different parties were successively interested, made a bold attempt to make and introduce

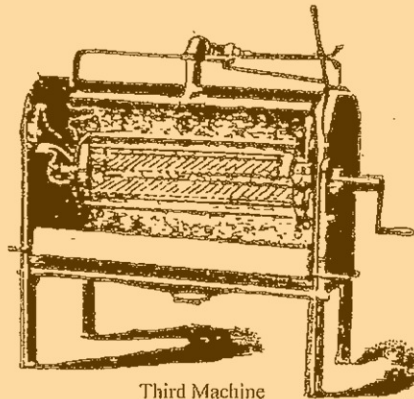
attempts succeeded in thoroughly con demeaning the machines in this city, for there were in it in these stages of development serious faults that caused it to be thrown out of hotels and restaurants and hand dishwashing resumed. Finally, some five or six years ago, a man named G. S. Blakeslee was interested, evidently a man of remarkable determination and persistence, coupled with inventive genius and good business ability. Had he known at that time the battle before him, the prejudice existing and the practical defects of the machine that must yet he overcome, he would undoubtedly have dropped the dishwasher business like a hot iron and turned his inventive faculties toward a flying machine, perpetual motion or something else easy. But, like the Irishman who took the bull by the horns to rub the animal's nose in the dust as a good joke on his bullship. Mr. Blakeslee innocently tackled Mr. Haskins' dishwasher, and nearly suffered the Irishman's fate. Mr. Blakeslee established at once a plant for making the machines. No



Fourth Machine



NO. 1 First Pattern



Third Machine

sooner did he introduce some of his machines than trouble began. Defect after defect came to the front.

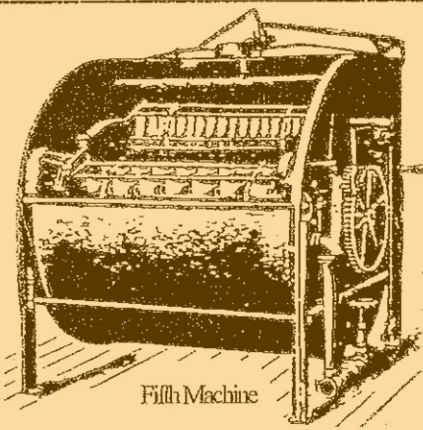
Since Mr. Blakeslee bought the patents of Mr. Haskins and his successors the changes in the dishwasher are represented by the five engravings from No. 1 to No. 6. Some of these illustrations resemble each other but, the mechanism and operation differ materially.

As the machine changed in form its name was at times also changed. It was first called Haskins' Dishwasher. At a later stage it was called the Niagara Dishwasher and one hotel man using the then latest pattern said it was well named as it took a Niagara of water to run it. Niagara was dropped and the name "Columbia" adopted, which like the machine itself, has reached a finality, for the machine now being perfect there is no further need of new names.

Among difficulties encountered in evolving the Columbia Dishwasher

heard, but subsequently an item about the invention went the rounds of the press. Later the writer was treated

the machine in Chicago hotels which

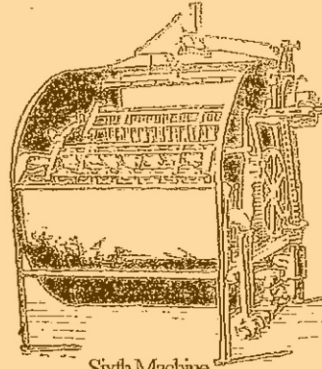


Fifth Machine

from the Haskins machine, the hardest one to overcome was, first of all, the production of uniformly good work. While the early patterns, like some other dishwashers now on the market, did good general work, they failed on dishes used for eggs and other very adhesive eatables, it took years to overcome this defect, and at the same time to effect a saving of water and power, which proved two more difficult points of attainment. Then there were innumerable intricate defects to perfect in the baskets, with which various experiments were made, different kinds of metal and coverings being used, as the wear and tear of hot water and constant movement soon wore out the kinds of material first tried and afforded no protection to dishes. This overcome, a half dozen styles of sprayers were invented and tried. One machine did perfect work, never chipped dishes, but in time wore the enamel off the edges of dishes. While perfecting the machine point by point by the experience developed in actual operation there was constant effort to produce a machine that could be sold cheaper than the earlier patterns, difference sizes were made, and steam power appliances attached as shown in the most recent pattern No. 6. Another and a very important point to achieve, was the reduction in size, so as to save space, many kitchens being too small and overcrowded to admit large machines with out and increase of space that would cost more than the machine itself.

But Mr. Blakeslee was finally enabled to shout "Eureka." He now has the dishwasher that "does the business," and the persistence which he has shown, not to speak of the \$20,000 he has expended in perfecting the machine, speaks a whole volume for him as inventor, manufacturer and business man. From the crude thing labeled No. 1 he has created the perfect machine, Cut 6 the largest pattern of which weighs 900 pounds and occupies a floor space of

4 1/2 feet square, while the ease of action, the capacity for work, and perfection of work, is something really marvelous. The Columbia was awarded the highest medals and diplomas at the World Columbian Exposition, But what is a greater



Sixth Machine

triumph is the fact that in Chicago. Where the machine got such a "black eye" in its early years, it is now being introduced in the leading hotels and restaurants and receiving the highest commendation from those who once threw out the old pattern with disgust. This is success that speaks for itself.

EDITORIAL

WHICH APPEARED IN THE

HOTEL WORLD

MARCH 9th, 1895



G.S. BLAKESLEE

Among the men that deal with hotel and whose name has become familiar to hotel men of late years is that of Mr. G. S. Blakeslee manufacturer of the Columbia Dishwasher, which has revolutionized the dish washing business in many of the leading hotels and restaurants. Long after the first crude attempt at making a machine to wash dishes, Hotel men declared it was one of the things that would never be done by a machine. For a

good while after Mr. Blakeslee came in possession of the patents of what was the "Niagara" dish washing machine it looked as if the hotel men judged aught. But after changing the pattern a half dozen times, and overcoming every fault and objection one by one, and putting a large sum into the venture, Mr. Blakeslee came out winner. In Chicago the earliest patterns of the machine had done serious injury by creating a strong prejudice against the machine, and Mr. Blakeslee had to make a sale for the new machine away from home before confidence was restored and the machine adopted. That this has been accomplished is well evidenced by recent sales in Chicago. W.H. Dittmer has recently placed a Columbia in his Temple Cafeteria on Monroe street, and has ordered another for his restaurant in the Venetian building. Burton F. White has placed one in the Association Cafeteria, in the Y. M. C. A. building, and ordered a second one for the restaurant on the seventh floor in that building; the Monahan Catering Company has put one in its cafeteria in the New York Life Building; H. Dejonghe has put one in his place in the Masonic Temple; Louis Lukes, who had some year ago been somewhat prejudiced by use of one of the old patterns, has now put one in his large and elegant new Stock Exchange Restaurant, and a new restaurant to be opened at NO. 118 Monroe street has ordered three of the machines. The seemingly endless and insurmountable difficulties which developed for some years during the experimental stage of the invention would have discouraged most men as the expenditure was heavy and the annoyance great but Mr. B has a reputation for tenacity. Above is shown a miniature portrait of Mr. Blakeslee. He was born in Oneida county, New York. His father was an intimate friend of Roscoe Conkling, and was through him made internal revenue collector G. S. becoming assistant collector. Coming west, Mr. B. first settled at Momence, Ill. and engaged in handling agricultural products. Twenty years ago he came to Chicago and embarked in the wholesale hay and grain business in which he is still engaged. He has been for many years a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and has held various important committee positions in the organization. He is often seen on the floor, where his hay and grain business call him. he purchased the Haskins dishwasher patents about six years ago and from them evolved the present perfect machine.