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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PROCESS OF TREATING BAGASSE FIBERS PREPARATORY TO PULP BOARD MAKING.

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This invention is for an improved process of treating bagasse, a by-product of sugar mills, and similar products, to prepare the fibers preparatory to making pulp board.

For certain classes of pulp board a long fiber is very desirable and the object of my invention is to provide fibers of suitable length and character in a cheap, simple and rapid manner. The bagasse after going through the heavy crushing rollers at the mills is found to be in pieces ranging from three inches long to very minute particles.

For the particular class of board requiring long fibers I preserve the long fibers as they come from the mill. Firstly I place the bagasse into large open vats. When boiling point is reached I mix with the mass caustic solution. The vats are provided with mechanical stirrers or mixers.

After boiling with the caustic soda about an hour the pulp is run between one or more sets of tension rollers which loosens the pith from the fibers.

By again boiling the pulp, after the rolling, for about an hour the pith separates itself from the fibers and the fibers are in a condition ready for the next treatment.

The essential features of this invention are the boiling, and subsequent addition of caustic soda during boiling to loosen the pith, the rolling instead of grinding as is usual, and the final boil to separate the pith from the fibers, which results in the cellulosic material being of even texture, the pith being preserved through not being overboiled, thus finally giving a better quality board.

I claim:—

In the treatment of bagasse preparatory to pulp board making bringing the water suspending the bagasse to boiling point adding caustic soda and continuing the boiling with stirring for about an hour, then passing the bagasse through rollers, and again boiling the pulp for about an hour.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

HERBERT THEODORE PRICE.