



Testing Smoke Box Vacuum

Some Advice from George Beesley

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- Boiler filled to half glass.
- All gaps in smoke-box filled with Pyruna, door greased on sealing face
- Either cotton wool or cotton waste soaked in methylated spirit, and spread over grate.
- Pump air into boiler to 30 lbs; Blower valve closed.
- Light cotton wool and as soon as flame emerges from firehole, open blower valve slightly and then observe if flame is immediately drawn away into firebox.
- On opening valve fully and inspecting through firehole, fire should be well drawn towards firetubes.
- When fire is almost out, open firedoor and close blower valve when residual smoke should again emerge from firehole.
- On re-opening valve, smoke should again be drawn in at once. It will be essential to maintain air supply to boiler during these experiments.
- If all this proves satisfactory, we can then proceed with proper steam trials.
- A temporary connection between your pump and the hand feed pipe will enable you to carry out the above.

The question of the permanent connection to suit either your tender or mine (or both) can be decided later.

Notes from George Beesley in 1985.