

**Cane.** 1. The stem of a plant of the genus *Calamus*, very common in the South of Asia along the margins of rivers and lagoons. It is split into ribbons, and used for making chair seats and backs. Machines are adapted for splitting, planing, and polishing rattan for the various purposes to which it is adapted. After the removal of strips having the polished cuticle, the core or central portion is rounded and used for basket-making and other purposes. See RATTAN.

**Cane-knife.** A knife like a sword or Spanish *machete*, used for cutting standing cane. It has a blade from 18 to 24 inches long, and is made in various patterns for the Southern or South American market.

The necessities of the sorghum culture in the United States have given rise to several special tools, among which are the strippers. (See CANE-STRIPPER.) These are for the purpose of removing the blades from the stalk, the former being green, immature, and absorbent, tending to depreciate the quantity and quality of the juice, which is feculent enough at any time.

The cane must be topped also, for the same reason; the saccharine juices of the top are crude and immature, and the panicle is not calculated for the purpose, its duty being to elaborate starch, which is somewhat matured at the season of cutting.

**Cane-press.** Bessemer's cane-press has a plunger reciprocating in a trunk into which the cane is introduced transversely. A length of cane is cut off at each stroke of the plunger, and then jammed against the mass of cut cane, which is eventually driven out at the open end.

**Cane-scrap'er.** A machine for cutting away the woody fiber from the back of a splint of rattan, to bring it to a thin, pliable strand or braid, for weaving into a chair-seat or for similar use. See RATTAN.

**Cane-split'ter.** One for cutting and riving splints from rattan. See CANE-WORKING MACHINE; RATTAN.

**Cane-pol'ish-ing Ma-chine'.** A machine for polishing the hard siliceous cuticle of rattan-splints after they are split and rived from the cane. See RATTAN; CANE-WORKING MACHINE.

**Rat-tan'.** (Malay, *rotan*.) The stem of a cane of the genus *Calamus*, especially used for making splints for chair seats and backs.

It abounds in Southern Asia in moist situations, and the various species are used for hanks for sails; cables, sometimes as much as 42 inches round; cords, withes, and walking-sticks; also for making splints for baskets and brooms, fish-weirs, hurdles, hoops, carriage-seats, and many other purposes. The larger varieties grow to a size of 3 inches diameter, and to a height of nearly 100 feet. It is cylindrical, jointed, and destitute of branches.

