state diagram of Fig. 2, making it difficult for agglomeration to occur.

[0039]

Based on the above considerations and/or hypotheses, the agglomeration suppression device 8 in Fig. 1 includes a metal ratio estimation unit 83 that estimates the metal ratio ([Mg, Ca, Al]/[Na, K] and the like) of alkaline earth metals (Mg, Ca, and the like) and/or earth metals (Al, and the like) to alkali metals (Na, K, and the like) in the furnace 11.

[0040]

The metal ratio estimation unit 83 may directly measure a metal ratio such as “Ca/K” in the furnace 11, but it is practically difficult to measure in the high-temperature furnace 11. Therefore, the metal ratio estimation unit 83 estimates a metal ratio such as “Ca/K” based on the measurement results of the combustion ash measurement unit 81 and/or component information acquired by the fuel component information acquisition unit 82.

[0041]

The combustion ash measurement unit 81 measures the combustion ash generated by combustion in the furnace 11 continuously or intermittently (for example, several times a day or an hour). The combustion ash to be measured by the combustion ash measurement unit 81 can be acquired from