

plants only are known to be making peat briquettes in Europe at the present time, namely, two in Germany, one in Russia, and one in Holland at Helenaveen. At the last named place the cost of production is from \$2.00 to \$2.15 a ton.

PEAT FUEL MAKING IN ONTARIO.

For several years the peat fuel industry of Ontario has been gradually developing, and the point has now been reached at which the makers can turn out their product at a profit. The burden of experiment and investigation, always an onerous one in establishing a new industry, has been borne by a few, and no doubt much money has been spent on methods and machinery which in the end gave only negative results. But there were those who did not despair of ultimate success, and with dogged resolution determined to persevere until the goal was reached. Among the most persistent of the inventors and experimenters have been Mr. A. A. Dickson, formerly of Montreal, but now of Toronto, who has spent a lifetime in intelligent efforts to solve the problem of peat manufacture; Mr. Alexander Dobson, of Beaverton, whose mechanical skill and ingenuity have been of signal assistance; Mr. J. M. Shuttleworth of Brantford, and Mr. E. J. Checkley, of Toronto, all of whom are deserving of praise for their sustained and well-directed attempts to put the industry on a practical and paying basis. The Canadian Peat Fuel Company, the Peat Development Syndicate,—now Peat Industries, Limited—and the Peat Machinery Supply Company are the organizations through which the above-named gentlemen and others associated with them have carried on their labors. It would perhaps be too much to assert that all the difficulties have been surmounted, and that the success of the industry is an assured and established fact; but at any rate, the preliminary stage appears to have been passed, and there can be little doubt that what yet remains to be done will soon yield to the address and skill of those who have already done so much. There have been many problems of manufacture which defied for years the wit and inventiveness of man, but few indeed in the long run have failed to yield to bold experiment and patient investigation. We may be certain that the difficulties surrounding the production of a cheap and efficient fuel from peat will in like manner disappear; indeed, some of them have already vanished, and the question seems to be rather how to produce the best possible fuel at the least possible cost, than how to produce a good fuel at a fairly low cost.

The peat fuel question presents itself in somewhat different shape to the people of Ontario than to inhabitants of European countries. Here we have for long been able to obtain hard coal, or anthracite—the best domestic fuel in the world—at comparatively low cost, and this has made us fastidious in the matter of fuel. Anthracite is unknown in Europe, and the consequence is, that forms of peat or other fuel perfectly acceptable to Europeans, would not be regarded with favor here. The assumption however that we can continue to rely upon anthracite has been suddenly and rudely dispelled, and the possibility of obtaining an efficient substitute has all at once become a matter of vital importance. What has happened once may happen again; and—to put an extreme supposition—if trade with the United States were to be interrupted by war, or if for any reason the government of that country should in times of strike or scarcity of coal forbid the export of anthracite, the need for some other kind of fuel would be instantly and most severely felt. Coal there is in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, but freights are prohibitive from either place, and to raise the price of fuel inordinately is only another way of cutting off the supply to very many. The fact however remains, that peat must compete with anthracite under ordinary conditions; and this has been kept steadily in mind throughout the present report.

Visits have been paid to most if not all the peat fuel plants so far erected in this Province, and mention is made of them below, together with the bogs on which they are situated; but detailed account is given only of methods and processes themselves, and in the main only those plants and distinctive features have been selected for description which have actually proved