

which another fuel cannot be substituted; and ascertaining the most efficient method or process to employ for that particular purpose, conservation will be attained in the most economic manner, and the rapidly decreasing life of the various sources of fuel, considerably prolonged.

The problem which confronts Canada, however, is, not conservation; but the best means of rendering available the various supplies of low grade fuels. The great Coal Measures of Canada are situated in the extreme east and west; but, lying between these points is a vast territory devoid of coal measures, which is, at the present time, dependent on some foreign source for a fuel supply. In one sense conservation is being practised to a very high degree, because, in certain parts of the country, practically all the coal required for industrial and domestic purposes, is being imported from the United States, while valuable fuel deposits are lying practically intact. But this kind of conservation never leads to commercial or industrial prosperity, and cannot, therefore, be recommended. In order to render those portions of Canada which are devoid of Coal Measures independent of foreign supplies of fuel, at least to some extent, it is necessary to convert into some convenient form the great source of potential energy represented by the peat bogs, which are of great extent and well distributed throughout the middle Provinces; and the same necessity applies to the lignite coals which are found distributed throughout the prairie Provinces.

Many of the peat bogs, which are peculiarly adapted for manufacture into fuel for domestic and power purposes, are conveniently situated as regards transportation facilities, and contiguous industrial communities. But notwithstanding this, the manufacture of the raw peat, contained in certain of the bogs, into a marketable fuel has not, up to the present time, met with much success; due, on the one hand, to the long list of failures recorded by those who have impracticably interested themselves in this problem during the past years, and, on the other hand, to unscrupulous speculators, promoters, and so-called inventors. The failures, so far recorded, may be ascribed principally to the methods employed for manufacturing the fuel. It is a fact that a flourishing and permanent peat industry has