

FUEL FOR THE FUTURE.

It is not now thought that the electric light will come into serious competition with gas, or even oil, for some time to come. As a result of this conviction gas shares are now going up, both in Europe and America. Mineral oils are likely to share in this improvement. A factory in Mayence (Germany) lately installed gas works, not only for illuminating, but also for heating and manufacturing purposes. The gas, which is made from mineral oils from Weissenfels, is purified by using a mixture of two parts of saw dust and one part of flour of sulphur, to which a small portion of slackened lime is added. A saturated solution of sulphate of iron is then poured over. The composition can be used for three operation if the mixture is stirred. It is claimed that 50 kilos of the Weissenfels oil has as great power as 75 kilos of Scotch mineral oils. Be this as it may, there is little doubt that gas will be a popular fuel of the future, both for heating and cooking purposes. The gas stove is rapidly finding its way into Canadian households. In this city at present there are nearly two hundred coal oil stoves in use, and said to be giving good satisfaction. Between oil and gas stoves and the more extended methods of heating and cooking by steam, the solution of the question of cheap fuel is not far off.—*London Free Press.*

Timber Limits in Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Mr. Meredith inquired in the Ontario Legislature on Thursday, (1) what rates of dues were prescribed by the conditions of sale of the 487 square miles of timber limit in the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts sold in 1881; (2) whether a reduction has been made in the amount of such dues, and, if so, to what extent and during what years; (3) whether any order-in-Council was passed authorizing such reduction, and the date of such order-in-Council, if any.

Mr. Pardee said the original dues were \$1.50 per 1,000. They had been reduced to the uniform rate of 75 cents, the reduction being made by order-in-Council on Nov. 20, 1876, it being ratified by the House during the following session.

Importance of Timber Culture.

The New York Tribune says:—The appointment yesterday of two commissioners in Vermont to enquire into the condition of the forests of that state and to recommend such measures as may be needed for their protection, is a step in the right direction. The forests of the eastern states are daily becoming more valuable as the western pineries disappear, and there are thousands of acres of poor land in New England and elsewhere, not available for ordinary farming, where, with a little encouragement from the State Legislatures, timber culture might be made to pay. Vermont has not appointed her commissioners a day too soon.

Second Growth Pine.

According to Professor Sargent, of Harvard College, Michigan and Wisconsin will some day find rivals in Massachusetts and other New England states in the production of white pine, which is a second growth in those states. The product sawed in Massachusetts in 1880 was worth \$1,000,000. Vermont and New Hampshire produced 100,000,000 feet, and Maine as much more. This, of course, to a Michigan or Wisconsin lumberman of to-day, is a trifling affair, but in the future, when the pine resources of this region are exhausted, it may seem quite important.

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