

vestment of money, with coal at almost prohibitive prices in our markets, and very little prospect of its being any cheaper in the near future.

Could a fuel, at least equal to the inferior qualities of foreign imported coal, be placed upon our markets at reasonable prices, say from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per ton, it would prove a great boon to the poor, and could scarcely fail to furnish a nice margin of profit to the investors. The plant required for its manufacture is simple and inexpensive. The same person who furnished the Bureau of Mines with the information quoted above, also states that his plant could be duplicated for \$8,000.00.

Peat serves many other useful purposes besides that of fuel, and is extensively utilized in some of the continental countries of Europe, where it is an article of considerable commercial value. The half decomposed fibrous, upper layers of the peat bogs, when thoroughly dried, make the very choicest litter for cattle. Its absorbent quality tends to keep the animals clean and dry, while the same property, when used in stables, renders it a valuable fertilizer. It also possesses disinfecting properties and is utilized with good effect as an antiseptic in hospitals, etc.

To enumerate all the possibilities of this valuable, yet heretofore much despised gift of Nature, would be beyond the limits of this report. It is sufficient to say that its utility is becoming more and more fully recognized, every year, and in Canada it is expected ere long to take an important place in connection with the industrial pursuits of the country.

PETROLEUM.

No direct information could be obtained of the boring operations at Port a Port, for the past year or two, and it is only through reference to the reports of the United States Geological Survey, that I can obtain anything definite. According to this report, "There were four wells drilled in 1898. Three of these struck oil at from 136 to 684 feet in moderate quantities. The shallow well is said to have produced ten barrels per day for a month. The colour of the oil is dark amber, the gravity 33° Baume, and it seems to have good lubricating qualities."

The Parson's Pond Oil Company engaged the services of an expert oil driller last season, and purchased a new outfit of the