

said the old knight, "and if you had been there a little sooner you would probably have seen them putting it in too." A few days after, in taking out some other samples of coal from this hole it was found that these were mixed with bread and cheese, showing that the person who so ingeniously "salted" the property had not been sufficiently careful in the selection of his ingredients. A subsequent investigation showed conclusively that the bore-hole had not even passed through the clay covering, and that the solid rock had never been reached, so that this attempt to start a coal mine in Ontario was a dismal failure. A similar attempt at coal discovery in Quebec was made on the north side of the St. Lawrence, below Quebec city, but a careful examination of this mine also showed it to consist of pieces of the mineral which had been stuck in the clay along the course of a small brook, so that this attempt also fell flat.

It would certainly be a wonderful thing and a great benefit to the industries of this district, if coal in workable quantity could be found anywhere in this area, but until the present geological conditions change very materially, it is to be feared there will never be any very great development in this direction, and the only alternative, if we wish to use our own fuel, is to utilize some of our great deposits of peat.

The question of natural gas and oil along the St. Lawrence has already received some attention, and will doubtless before long be again taken up. The developments along the east side of that river in the vicinity of Nicolet by boring, though carried down to a comparatively small depth, proved that natural gas does exist in that area, and it was obtained in considerable quantity at the first attempt. A large vein of gas was at one point struck at a depth of less than 600 feet, which came out with such force as to wreck the plant and hurl mud and stones many feet into the air. The hole was not however continued down to the Trenton, which was supposed to be the great reservoir of this material, owing to a lack of capital on the part of those interested; but the abandoned hole is still discharging gas in considerable quantity. It is the opinion of those who