

It is, therefore, gradually being displaced by machine peat, except when used as a raw material for the peat briquetting industry, where cut peat is preferable on account of its porous nature.*

CUT PEAT DUG BY HAND.

This is the oldest and simplest manner of manufacture and has been used for centuries. It is still used to a great extent both in Ireland and on the Continent, especially by country people digging for their own fuel supply or operating on a small scale. This method can be employed in every drained bog, irrespective of its depth or area; the degree of humification and the occurrences of roots and stumps, however, affect the cost of production.

The work is carried out in the following manner: The bog is first thoroughly drained; afterwards the drying field is levelled and drained by small ditches about one foot wide and 30 to 60 feet apart, as shown in Fig. 2.

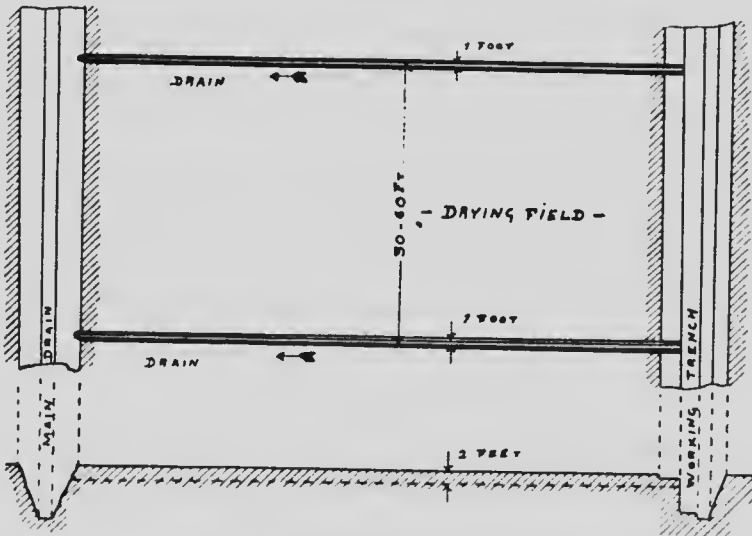


FIG. 2—Method of Drainage.

The surface of the bog is divided into squares, each of which generally is worked by two men, one man cutting the peat and placing it on the edge of the working trench, and the other loading it by hand or with a pitch fork on a wheel barrow or truck and transporting and laying it out on the drying field. In certain localities where lumber is fairly cheap special drying sheds or racks are sometimes used. (See pages 31-33). The area of the drying

* In Canada other methods have been used to procure raw material for briquette manufacture. See Bulletin No. 5—"Peat fuel and its manufacture," of the Bureau of Mines, Ont. (Department of Lands and Mines, Toronto.)