

countries. He showed me a briquette of the fuel made from peat by the process owned by his company. The briquette had all the appearance and properties of a first-class coal. I have no doubt its heating value was very high.

I listened with great interest to his enthusiastic description of the process with which, by the way, I was entirely familiar. The process consisted in heating the raw peat as it came from the bog to a high temperature in iron tubes under pressure. This was done for the purpose of destroying the hydrocellulose and carbonizing the peat material in the hope of being able to extract the water content from this chemically changed material. But, unfortunately, the substance, when subjected to pressure, refused to part with the major quantity of the water content, and artificial drying and briquetting had to be resorted to, in order to produce the elegant briquette which I am passing around for your examination.

I looked over the cost-sheet he presented for my inspection. As a piece of book-keeping it was perfect, and the cost of the product per ton was ridiculously low. I forget the exact figures.

I can just imagine a number of financiers and business men sitting around a table, each holding one of these briquettes, and listening to the oratory of the promoter of this famous process. "What! produce from peat a coal cheaper almost than it can be mined, and in such elegant pieces! Why, there is a fortune in it!" How often must these little briquettes have served the purpose of a talisman to empty the purses of the listeners to the eloquent promoter, for I understand that the company has already spent \$1,500,000, and the Swedish experts some \$40,000 additional.

I asked the agent how many thousand tons they were producing per annum, and at what price the product sold, and with child-like innocence he informed me that the company were not manufacturing for sale as yet, since there were a few changes which had yet to be made in the machinery. This was three years ago, and I presume they are still making changes in the machinery, and are simply turning out these beautiful little briquettes to aid them in selling stock. I instructed the Chief Engineer of the Fuel Testing Division, when he was in England investigating by-product gas producers, to go to Scotland and examine and investigate in detail the process I have described. But, although he made every effort and saw a number of the directors, he was not permitted to see the plant.