

# ONTARIO PEAT CO.

## PROSPECTUS OF THE ONTARIO PEAT COMPANY.

LIMITED LIABILITY. . . . . HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.

To be Organized under the Act 27 and 28 Victoria, Chapter 23, and the Amendments thereto.

**T**HE property of the company forms a portion of the well-known "Cranberry Marsh," in the Townships of Humberstone and Wainfleet, County of Welland, and Province of Ontario, traversed by the Welland Canal, as well as by its "Feeder," which is also navigable; and is composed of the following lots, viz. :—

	Acres.
Humberstone—South halves of 23, 30, 32 and 33, Concession IV.....	400
Wainfleet—South halves of 6 and 7, Concession IV.....	200
" Whole of 10, Concession II, and the whole of 10 and 11, Concession III.....	600
" Parts of 8 and 9, Concessions IV. and V., about.....	200
Total.....	1400

A main ditch six feet deep has been made by the County through the whole of this Marsh for surface drainage, at an expenditure of \$50,000; and this ditch runs along a portion of every one of the above lots, except two which abut upon the feeder of the Welland Canal.

The several lots above enumerated were the first chosen from the Marsh, having been selected for their great value as Peat Deposits. The remaining Peat lands have been obtained by the Anglo-American Peat Company, which has been operating most successfully during the past season upon a lot adjoining one of the Company's lots. A most satisfactory report has been obtained from Frederick Holmes, Esq., the County Engineer—a gentleman who has had large experience in these peat lands, having not only surveyed and laid off the Marsh into lots for the County, but has also been employed as superintendent in the ditching operations which have been undertaken and carried out through the whole extent of the Marsh. His estimate of the quantity of Peat contained in the Company's lands is placed at three millions of tons, at the very least; and this estimate is fully borne out by the eminent firm of Messrs. Macdougall and Skae, Civil Engineers, Toronto, who were specially despatched to make a personal examination of the property, and whose report is subjoined.

Peat can be laid down on the banks of the canal at the cost of from \$1 to \$1.25 per ton, and can from thence be forwarded by water to market in all directions, at small cost, and without transshipment; to say nothing of the facilities and advantages afforded by no less than five railways, one of which, the "Buffalo and Lake Huron," passes within twenty chains of the property. In addition to these advantages, the fact may be noticed, that about thirty vessels pass through the canal every day during the season of navigation, the steamers requiring fuel for their own use, and the sailing vessels seeking cargoes, and requiring ballast westward to Chicago and other points.

The demand for this fuel for private consumption will be very great when its superior qualities become more widely known. Already railways and steamers are beginning to use it instead of wood and coal, with the most satisfactory results, experience having proved that one ton of peat is equal to about one and one-third cords of the best hard wood. With a view to the full and proper development of this property, it is proposed to organize the Company with a capital of \$120,000, in 2,400 shares of \$50 each; \$50,000 of this sum to be retained by the Directors for working capital, the balance to be applied to the purchase of the real estate. It is also proposed that 5 per cent shall be paid at the time of subscription, and the balance in calls of 10 per cent at such times as the Directors may name, but not oftener than once in every three months, from 1st of January, 1869.

The affairs of the Company will be managed by a Board of five Directors, the first set to be provisional, and, as soon as the charter is obtained and the Company organized, the permanent Directors to be chosen by the Shareholders, and to be elected annually.

The principal office of the Company to be in the City of Toronto. The property has been conveyed to Peleg Howland, Esquire, who will hold the same in trust until the Company is organized.

### PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.

HENRY S. HOWLAND, Esquire, Toronto.  
ALFRED TODD, Esquire, Ottawa.

JOHN FISKEN, Esquire, Toronto.

LARRATT W. SMITH, Esquire, Toronto.  
EDWARD A. C. PEW, Esquire, Welland.

Further information can be obtained at the office of C. J. Campbell, Esquire, Banker, 92 King Street East, Toronto, who will act as Provisional Treasurer, and will also receive subscriptions for Stock.

CHAMBERS, 17 TORONTO STREET, TORONTO, JANUARY 11, 1869.

To the Directors of the Ontario Peat Company,—

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honor to lay before you the following report, on the Peat Beds in the Great Cranberry Marsh, situated in the County of Welland. The swamp, or to call it by a more proper name, moor, for it is more like the moors of Scotland than the swamps of this country, is intersected by a large drain, which at present carries off a considerable quantity of water; and from its juxta position, to the lots owned by your company could be made available for drainage purposes. The moor rises gradually from its northern limit in concession 4, to its summit, at the south end of concession 3, about four feet on two and a half miles, where it is about eight feet above the level of Lake Erie; while, on the north, from the end of the moor to the Welland River, distant about a mile and a half, there is a fall of sixteen feet. Following the course of the water through the various drains, the result arrived at is, that the moor is higher than the surrounding country, which is under cultivation.

The peat on this marsh, brought up by the boring rods, as well as that lying on the sides of the drains, thrown up when they were made, shows a good quality of a dark black color, in every lot. There is a layer of red peat in some of the lots of the Township of Humberstone; but generally the peat was of the dark colour above mentioned. The surface of the marsh, or moor, has been burnt once or twice, so that there is not much moss or upper growth, nor are there many trees alive; and on the lots owned by your company this is more marked. The lots are conveniently placed for working, and connections could be formed, at a small cost, to the several outlets that surround this tract of land; and the surface being regular, no difficulty would be encountered in laying tramroads.

In making the borings for this report, the valuable assistance of the County Engineer, Mr. Frederick Holmes, was obtained, as he had superintended the making of the drains, and had laid out several of the lots some years ago, and since that time had been intimately acquainted with the moor. The depths arrived at give an average of six to eight feet of peat over all the lots in the 3rd and 4th concessions, while in the lot of the 2nd concession of the Township of Wainfleet, the peat is very deep, averaging about 15 feet, and it is said to go even deeper. There are 200 acres in this lot.

The regularity of the upper surface of this large tract of land, both peat and arable, being combined with the result of the borings taken, tend to a conclusion that the bottom of the peat bed must also be regular, as there are no hills or mounds of any size or consequence in the vicinity.

The Anglo-American Peat Fuel Company have been at work during last summer on a portion of this marsh, opposite to some of the lots owned by your Company. They find the loss, by weight and shrinkage to be 75 per cent.; or to make one ton of peat fuel, four tons of peat are required. This is less than that of a similar project in the Lower Province, where the shrinkage is 85 per cent.

From the data and experience of the Anglo-American Company, taking the loss by weight and shrinkage at 75 per cent., with an average of from six to eight feet over all the lots, but that in the 5th Concession of Wainfleet, which is taken at sixteen feet, we find the property of your Company, situated in the marsh, to be capable of producing over 3,000,000 tons of fuel.

A fuller report, by us, lies in the hands of Mr. C. J. Campbell, Banker, King Street, Toronto, to which also we beg to call your attention.

We have the honour to be, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servants,

MACDOUGALL & SKAE.  
CIVIL ENGINEERS.