

but I know that if your fire in the furnace becomes low and sluggish, and you throw a shovelful of peat upon it and cover it with anthracite, in five minutes the coal is glowing hot. My observation is that peat is best adapted for the kitchen range, and is as good a fuel as we know of for domestic purposes, with the possible exception of gas. You cannot alter the nature of a bog after it has been formed, and if you get a fuel that is high in ash there is a good deal of waste; unfortunately that has been the case with some of the peat bogs that have been experimented upon in the past. Another difficulty is that our present furnaces have not been adapted to the burning of peat, and consequently there is a considerable loss on account of the unconsumed particles falling through the grate. I am in hopes that in the peat bogs of Ontario and Quebec and other portions of Canada, we have what will yet be a most important asset. Instead of our looking upon these bogs as being waste, as we do to-day, I believe we will yet come to regard them as a valuable portion of the country's natural resources.

DR. BELL.—Notwithstanding the new views put forward by some, I am far from being converted to the theory that petroleum is of volcanic origin. As to our petroleum field in southwestern Ontario, from the first time I looked into this matter I did not consider it certain that petroleum originated in the Corniferous limestone. In 1887 I wrote a paper on the subject and presented it to the Royal Society of Canada, in which I set forth very distinctly the idea that the petroleum might not originate in this formation, but probably came up from the Trenton limestone far below; that there is some natural way in which it comes up, probably by numerous fissures filled with water, and that we have a comparatively inexhaustible supply of petroleum in this formation. We have pumped our Ontario petroleum fields for forty years, and we have taken out more petroleum than would form the whole bulk of the Corniferous limestone in the area worked. If it comes up from a great depth, from the Trenton below, there is hope that not only more petroleum will be obtained there, but that new fields will be found in this province, where the Trenton limestones occur under the other formations, and where a low