

furnish the quantity of heat needed would render this method impracticable.

There is no question that peat fuel in the form of compact briquettes is more desirable than machine peat bricks or blocks, but after many trials and much experimentation the process of briquetting has not proven commercially successful, and briquetted peat fuel has not been and is not now on sale in the peat producing countries of Europe. And yet we still hear of schemes and processes, involving the impracticabilities described, being offered as solutions of the difficulties attending the successful production of peat fuel as a commercial enterprise.

Credulous  
Business  
Men

So rapidly has science advanced in recent years, and so startling have been the discoveries made, that what would, 50 years ago, have been regarded as almost a miracle is now passed over as something to be expected and not calculated to arouse wondering admiration. This frame of mind is responsible for the credulity of those not scientifically trained, and accounts for the fact that some of the shrewdest business men prove easy game to the enterprising promoter and pseudo-inventor of schemes and processes, incapable of commercial realization. No discovery has been made in any department of science which cancels in any particular the well-established laws of nature, and the scientist is, therefore, still able to say regarding a proposition of process, if it is contrary to laws well known to him, that it is economically impossible. Until the public cease to listen to schemes proposed by men who have neither the education, training and experience to arouse a legitimate faith in the soundness of the scheme offered, failure and waste of money must be expected.

In 1910, at the annual meeting of the American Peat Society at Ottawa, I made in my Presidential Address the following statement: "The endeavour to accomplish *economically* by artificial means and in a short time what has been accomplished by nature in exceedingly long periods of time, namely, the change of peat into a substance similar to coal, has so far apparently not been attended with success." This statement is still correct, as will appear from the following:

Some three years ago, just before the war, an agent representing a firm in Scotland, who were exploiting the wet-carbonizing process, appeared in my office, endeavouring to interest me in that process. He stated that he came to Canada, not so much for the purpose of selling the stock of the company, as to look up peat deposits in Canada and Newfoundland, which the company intended to buy for the purpose of introducing their process in these two