

CANADA'S PEAT INDUSTRY

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Canada's peat industry has become an economic factor of commercial importance. It has passed beyond the experimental stage and is now on a basis for extensive development. As yet the enterprise is but in its infancy but with almost unlimited raw material in various parts of the Dominion and a method of manufacture and preparation which is successful financially and mechanically it remains only to create a demand for the product by advertising its qualities as a fuel and showing that it is cheaper than anthracite to create market conditions which will insure the interest of capital in its development and create an expansion which the importance of the problem justifies.

In these days when one and all are complaining of the high cost of living, when the industrial man excuses the high prices of his produce by the increase in prices of his raw material and of

The above figures show the total amount of coal imported or in other words we are entirely dependent on the United States for approximately 50 per cent, of our fuel supply. For this supply we paid \$39,468,467 or Canadians gave almost \$6.00 per capita during 1912 for this one imported article.

Under such circumstances it surely behooves us to inquire into the question of our natural resources to find if some remedy may not be found for conditions so undesirable industrially and economically.

The most promising means of relief lies in the development of our vast peat fields. It is estimated that some 40,000 acres of bog have been surveyed or explored in different parts of the Dominion and this is thought to be only a fraction of the total. The southern boundary of the peat area may be said to be a line drawn



Peat laid out for drying at plant of SHUTTLEWORTH & MOORE, Alfred, Ont.

the accessory material for its manufacture, when the household is complaining of the apparently exorbitant prices of the home necessities, it is of importance to note the introduction of any material which will tend to relieve the pressure by reducing expenses. That peat is a less expensive fuel than anthracite or other varieties of coal and quite as suitable for industrial and domestic purposes has been demonstrated by exhaustive experiment.

As a country Canada is dependent on the foreign supply for a high percentage of her fuel. Her wood supply is rapidly becoming exhausted and falls far short of supplying even the demand for domestic fuel. With coal areas situated in the extreme eastern and western portions of which as yet, furnish only a limited supply of fuel, the central portions of the Dominion are almost entirely dependent for their fuel with which to promote industrial development or to supply home comforts on the republic to the South. During the year 1912 Canada's coal mines produced 14,699,953 tons, while during the same period 14,574,899 tons of anthracite, bituminous and dust coal were imported from the United States.

from the Atlantic Coast in New Jersey through northern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota which passes into Canada through Western Manitoba. Crossing to Alberta it curves southward passing through southern British Columbia and entering Washington, U.S.A. North of this line there is an almost incalculable amount of peat between the Atlantic and the Pacific, much of it still unknown. The largest bogs known lie east of the Great Plains in Ontario and Quebec. It has been found as far north as the Churchill River and at the southern border of the Barren Grounds. Over this area the peat averages possibly, 20 feet in depth and when it is remembered that one acre of peat one foot deep will yield approximately 250 tons or that an acre 20 feet deep will yield about 5000 tons one may understand, in some small degree the importance and value of this almost unlimited supply of fuel.

As is quite generally known peat is of vegetable origin and the bogs are really ponds or lakes which have been filled with decaying vegetable growth, which now varies in depth from one inch to sixty feet and under natural conditions is now