

### Peat Moss.

#### A GREAT NEW BRUNSWICK ENTERPRISE IN COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT.

It is now generally known throughout the Maritime Provinces that a vast bed of peat moss has been discovered on the shores of Musquash Harbor, fifteen miles from St. John.

One of our representatives was shown over the property a few days ago by Mr. T. C. Wallace, the manager. The commercial value of this moss will assume great proportions when it is placed upon the market. It is used extensively in the United States and Europe as bedding for horses and other live stock, on account of its wonderful absorbing qualities. Up to date the demand has been supplied from Germany, but as this article is much superior, and can be sold far cheaper, it will now take the precedence. Its use is not confined to bedding, but is valuable in many other ways.

Two years ago Mr. Wallace resided a few miles from New York City, and when there Mr. G. C. Carman, late of St. John, visited him, and reference was made to this peat moss bog. Mr. Wallace had been in the habit of using the German moss for bedding his horses, and the idea occurred to him that the Musquash bog might be similar, if not identical, in its composition. He sent Mr. Carman back to New Brunswick to obtain samples, and when these were secured and examined the matter became a certainty. Mr. Wallace then communicated with one Mr. T. G. Bennet, who was so taken with the scheme of working the property that he met him at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York, and put up \$50,000. Changes have occurred since then, and now Mr. W. F. Todd, of St. Stephen, N. B., has obtained control, and Mr. Wallace has become associated with him.

The great difficulty that had to be contended with was the want of proper machinery for drying the moss, which would, at the same time minimize the cost of labor, so that it could be placed upon the market at a reduced rate and still declare a profit. The Germans

rarely make use of machinery at all, but dry their moss in the sun. This mode of preparation is not practical in this climate, and artificial means had to be invented. With this end in view Mr. Wallace visited many of the large American cities, and interviewed a number of the manufacturers of machinery, and examined their stock, but could find nothing suitable. He then returned and began to invent and experiment. He met with many failures, but did not let them daunt him, with the result that the ingenious mechanical contrivance he now has, has proved satisfactory. Space will not allow a detailed description, but the writer will endeavor to give his readers a fair idea of the works.

The moss, which averages a depth of between 40 and 50 feet, is cut out with Irish spades, so as to form long ditches. It is then run up to the side of the building upon cars on a tramway, where it is deposited in what may be termed the pockets of a huge revolving machine. An enormous pounder descends from above with automatic rapidity, and fits itself into each pocket, in succession, squeezing out the water. The moss then passes on to the wringer, from which it is carried up to the top of the building, and enters what is known as the tunnel, which in itself is a most wonderful contrivance. It is made of wood and sheet iron, being oblong in shape, with one end near the floor and the other tilted up to the roof. A system of steam pipes run under it and a current of hot air is kept continually passing through it by means of a large fan at the lower end. The moss in going through makes eleven successive drops, which aggregate a fall of 32 feet. The hot air is thus made to pass completely through it several times. From the tunnel the moss goes into a hay press, which is slightly changed in its mechanism to suit the new requirements, and comes out in bales, which are wired and packed in canvas and placed in readiness for shipment. A great deal of thought, time and money has been spent in procuring the right machinery, and it is with pleasure that the writer can state that the present plant is considered

to be capable of performing the work. It is now only a matter of a few weeks when everything will be in running order.

The bog is most favorably situated. It lies between the railway and Musquash Harbor, so that the cost of shipment will only be nominal.

To the scientific man the premises are of great interest. What makes it of so much commercial value is the fact that it is entirely free of soil or grit. Upon investigation it has been found that the moss bed rests upon smooth water-worn rocks. It has probably been growing for centuries, and many of the old inhabitants of the neighborhood are positive that several feet have been added to its height within their time. The bog is surrounded by hills, forming a basin, but the surface of the bog itself is higher in the centre than at the sides.

The supply is practically inexhaustable, and the demand great as it already is, will increase as the public are educated up to the benefits derived from its use.

Obstacles almost insurmountable have been overcome by Mr. Wallace, who has not only shown a great deal of business tact, but also a knowledge of machinery and power of invention which is truly wonderful.

Mr. W. F. Todd, who is the proprietor of the St. Croix Stock Farm near St. Stephen, as has been already stated, is the principal moneyed man in the enterprise, and judging from the way he went into stock raising, and the success which attended him, is a sufficient guarantee that this scheme will not suffer for the want of capital judiciously invested, and an indomitable will to push things along to a successful issue.

A horse enjoys being unharnessed when coming in from the field, sweaty and tired. The collars and pads can be dried and cooled off so that when put on again there is a sense of freshness which even a horse seems to appreciate. Give the team a moderate allowance of water and let them eat hay for a while before the grain feed is given.