

ordinary coal, while in calorific power the tests already made have shewn it to be quite as valuable as that substance. While, however, the experimental stages have been quite satisfactory, it was found that in the manufacture, through some defect in the machinery, its commercial output has hitherto, not been such as to contribute largely to our mineral wealth. From the satisfactory nature of the work done lately however it may be taken as assured that the commercial aspect of this question will be shortly settled and a compressed peat, which will replace coal for all purposes, both in our houses and factories, as well as on many of our lines of railway, will yet be an accomplished fact, especially in view of the statement of those who have already engaged in the work, that such a fuel can be produced at a cost, at least half of that which we now pay for coal. This material has for years been successfully produced in Germany, where the industry of compressed peat has assumed large proportions and where a most excellent fuel is prepared at a cost of less than two dollars per ton.

But there is also another aspect of the question which is already receiving much attention by the persons interested in the exploitation of our peat deposits. For a number of years there has been sent to the markets of the leading American cities a substance known as moss-litter, which finds a ready sale at remunerative rates, and for which there is an ever increasing demand. This industry is now being carried on in the Welland district where the peat bogs along the line of the canal are being utilized.

In practice the working of a peat bog should embrace both the preparation of the moss-litter and the manufacture of compressed peat. The substance of a good peat bog is divisible into three portions or strata, viz., the upper or green growing surface, of which but little use can be made and which must first be removed in order to reach the lower and economically available portions.

This second part has a thickness of three to four feet, and passes gradually downward into the black and unctuous portion which is best suited for fuel purposes. In the economic working of a peat bog therefore, due attention must be paid to this order