

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

Air-dried Peat Fuel.—The results obtained with the methods previously described clearly demonstrate that the manufacture of air-dried peat fuel, if properly conducted, is, in Europe, a sound business proposition. The conditions in Canada, at least in the southern parts of the interior provinces, are quite as favourable for the manufacture of peat fuel as these in Europe. In fact, the drying conditions are more favourable on account of the warmer and longer summer.

The methods and machinery to be employed for working the bogs must in each individual case, be determined by a thorough investigation, as to draining facilities, nature of the bog and local conditions. The neglect of these important factors in Canada is probably one of the reasons why the utilization of our bogs has so far mostly resulted in failures.

A method and machine which in a certain bog may work quite well, may, where conditions are different, prove entirely unsuitable.

Of the European methods described in this report, the digging of the peat by hand without any mechanical treatment (see pages 22-33) is not likely to prove acceptable in Canada except for a small production for domestic use, and for the manufacture of moss litter.

The method of adding water to the peat in the pulping and mixing machine (see pages 34-57) is a method to be recommended where suitable drying fields can be obtained, or where only a small production is required. The necessary machinery and other appliances are comparatively simple and cheap, and when the peat is well humified, a good fuel is obtained.

In the majority of cases, however, the employment of peat machines (see pages 57-129) is more suitable.

Where the bogs are comparatively free from roots, trunks and stumps of trees, the employment of mechanical excavators is a great advantage in such well drained bogs, the machinery and method invented and used by O. Strenge at Elisabethfehn, Oldenburg, Germany, is probably one of the best. (See pages 116-120).

Most bogs contain, however, a great number of roots and stumps, and in such cases the advantages of the mechanical excavators so far invented are doubtful. The most suitable machinery and methods for such bogs are those invented by A. Anrep. (See pages 77-82, 92-96).

Peat and Lignite Briquettes.—The manufacture of peat briquettes (see pages 130-148), which are preferable for domestic use on account of their higher fuel value and cleanliness, is, as far as can be judged, in Europe not a very lucrative undertaking. The increased fuel value does not cover the extra expense of artificial drying and briquetting.