

on draining is very considerable and amounted in this case to about two feet.

The surface of the consolidated bog is a much pleasanter place now than it ever could have been before. Except for the canals and drains you can walk over it everywhere without inconvenience. Standing in the middle of the Asten Moor the outlook is strange and almost impressive. As far as the eye can reach there is nothing but moor, but the monotony of the scene is very much relieved by the gigantic stacks of moss sods dried and ready for milling.

The Asten moor was not brought into this condition without much labor, carried on after the adoption of a plan thoroughly well thought out, and during the lapse of many years. The unwatering began 20 years ago and had to be done gradually, the first drain being dug only to a depth of about 18 inches. No deeper digging was possible until after the surface part had settled and solidified to such an extent as to prevent the rolling down of the fluid moss into the drain, and the consequent loss of all the labor. After the consolidation of the upper 18 inches, another deeper cut of 12 inches was made in the drain for carrying off the water; then intervened another delay for allowing the bog to settle, and by repeating this process, the gradual consolidation or compression of the ten feet to the eight feet thickness was effected; very slowly and at a rate not exceeding one foot annually. It may be thought that it goes without saying that the solidification of such a semi-liquid mass could have been effected in no other way, but we shall learn, later on, that other methods have been tried elsewhere, with very disastrous results to the parties interested.

One of the most remarkable phenomena to be observed on the Asten moor is the construction in it of canals filled with water, in which scows are floating for conveying the dried sods from various points on the moor to the mill. That such canals can exist without again impregnating the bog with water, and converting the peat and litter into their original semi-fluid state seems astonishing, and yet there are plainly to be seen, within a distance of six feet from each other, the canals in question and ditches by means of which the bog has been unwatered, the latter containing only dribblets of water oozing from the bog.

(Here the lecturer gave more minute details of the manner of producing moss litter at Asten.)

Of course there are works for the production of moss lit-