

We were sheltered in the railway station during a sharp storm of rain, thunder and lightning, which had no effect on our spirits, and the evening train brought us back to Ottawa shortly after six in the evening, tired, but happy, with very pleasant memories of our Canadian peat bog.

M. McK. S.

Ottawa, Oct. 31, 1903.

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The following description of the manufacture of fuel from peat has been furnished by Mr. D. B. Dowling, of the Geological Survey of Canada :

Experiments in Canada in the manufacture of peat have been carried on for many years, but were mainly unsuccessful because the attempts to drive off the moisture had been limited to mechanical means. Air drying, a long process, produces a fuel in which there is an average of 30 per cent of moisture. A quicker means of getting rid of the water is imperative, but the expense of mechanical pressure combined with other difficulties have led to the abandonment of that method. In some of the localities where the manufacture of peat fuel is going on, the process followed consists of partial drying, by first draining the bog which removes only the water which accumulates in the trenches and then partial air drying on the surface, to be followed by artificial drying by the application of heat either before or after the fashioning into bricks or bars.

Draining the bog allows of the transport of the material by portable tramways to the works and the partial drying of the surface. In wet bogs the transport is by water in barges, and when the work is on a large scale the digging is by dredges. At Beaverton the peat is dried in a rotary furnace and when in an apparently dry state pressed into bricks. The plan adopted at Newington is, for the initial stage, to dig the peat by a German machine which cuts out a vertical section by means of a box-like spade being forced down into the bed. This, on being lifted brings up with it the block cut out. The transport to the works is by means of an endless wire cable working in a trough, up which the peat is pushed by the carriers attached. It then falls into a hopper leading to the mixing machine, something like a