

## peat

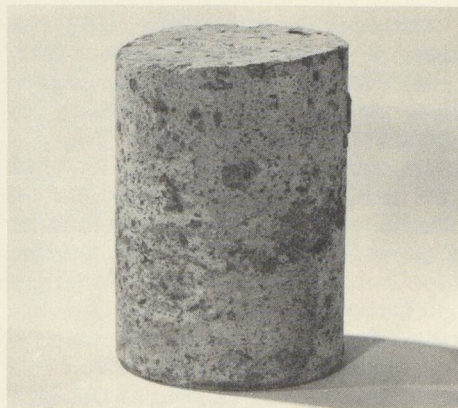
Light concrete made with peat base.

Béton léger à base de tourbe.

which is not miscible in water, these pollutants are completely dissolved in water. Results show that peat can absorb 10 times as much protein as carbon. Furthermore, in a relatively short time, peat can remove up to 95 per cent of the surfactants. In particular, tests showed that there was up to 95 per cent recovery of alkyl benzene sulfonate with the use of peat moss.

Large-scale experimental treatments of waste waters were conducted using peat. A peat filter bed was set up to remove solid particles in suspension. Absorption columns with peat "pellets" were utilized to eliminate dissolved solids and both the pollutants and the peat itself were recovered for subsequent use as soil conditioners. Filtration tests are being conducted in a pulp and paper factory to remove bark particles from the slurry. A Montreal firm, the Kruger Pulp and Paper Company, has also built a small pilot plant to study the use of peat moss in a filtration process for treatment of waste water.

Dr. André Marsan discovered that peat heated under pressure is transformed into a hard plastic. It would thus be possible to make "peat-boards" whose mechanical properties are close to those of other laminates. Les Entre-



prises Perron Inc. of La Sarre in Abitibi West, Quebec, has suggested to the University that peat be used to make laminates and has offered all of its facilities to the Sherbrooke group for a pilot plant study of peat moss utilization in the fabrication of building materials. Peat would thus provide competition for the particle board market.

These and similar studies at the University of Sherbrooke are part of an over-all concept of a continuing role for the University in the community, taking into account problems of the environment. The programs involved may well have a significant social impact.

Several brands of peat were used to absorb oil spilled in Nova Scotia's Chedabucto Bay by the tanker Arrow.

*On a utilisé différentes sortes de tourbe pour nettoyer les eaux de la baie de Chedabucto (N.-É.) après le naufrage du pétrolier Arrow.*

