

movement is now on foot to exploit the peat beds of Carleton County, situated but nine miles from the City of Ottawa. The promoters propose to use the "Dickson process" in the preparation of the peat.

Although the thermal value of peat is somewhat less than that of coal; it possesses the advantages which go some way to make amends for lack of energy. In the burning of peat, there are no clinkers, no soot, and comparatively little smoke. A lack of sulphur gives it a special value for smelting purposes; in that it is not as destructive on the fire lining of furnaces as coal. But it is probable that peat fuel will first come into use for domestic rather than industrial purposes. Little, if any, change is required in the ordinary stoves for the burning of peat, which renders its introduction into the household free from heavy initial expenses. We sincerely hope that those who have interested themselves in the development of Ontario peat beds will be successful.

THE POST OFFICE SERVICE.

An astonishing growth is that of the post office system of the United States, as shown by the annual report of the Postmaster General for the present fiscal year. In the year 1880, there were in the United States of America 43,000 post offices. By the close of the fiscal year, June, 1898, the number had increased to 73,006. In 1880, the gross revenue of the department was \$33,315,479; by 1898 it had increased to \$89,012,618. Like increase is shown in expenditure, which was \$36,542,804 in 1880, and \$98,033,523 in the present year. In both years there was a deficit, for like the Canadian, the American postal system is not self-supporting, but the ratio of last year's deficit is greater than in the earlier year. It is noteworthy that the receipts this year were some \$6,500,000 more than last year, which is attributed to the greater commercial prosperity of the country. The Postmaster General's estimate of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1900, is as follows: Total estimated revenue, \$100,958,112; estimated expenditures, \$105,224,000; deficiency, \$4,265,888. Canada has done better, relatively, than the United States in making up the difference between postal revenue and expenditure, for her revenue of \$1,684,017 from that source in 1880 was 28 per cent. short of the expenditure, while in 1897 the revenue of \$4,311,243 came within twelve per cent. of the expenditure.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The industrial activity of Newfoundland is very marked. In minerals especially, do we find much stir. The oldest copper mine on the island, that at Tilt Cove, is more active and more productive than ever. Little Bay, which was supposed to be exhausted, has lately made a new showing, a new copper vein, nine feet in width, having been discovered, and is now worked by a London company. On the west coast, at York Harbor, Bay of Islands, there is also a discovery of copper, which promises well. The search for copper is locally eager at the present time. Prospecting parties have been at work on Labrador also. As to iron, the St. John's correspondent of the Gazette says there will have been 100,000 tons shipped by the

end of the present year, from the iron mine at Belle Isle, which quantity is more than double that of last year. The shipping of ore from the new iron mine at Bay de Verde is expected to commence by May next. Shafts are being sunk, and a railway to the port of Old Pelican, is under construction. A wealthy syndicate, among whom are some of the great iron masters of England, have leased this valuable mine, and will work it on a large scale. The vein is sixteen miles in length, and is estimated by experts to contain forty million tons of the finest quality, equal to that of Lake Superior. In the same peninsula, half a dozen more veins of iron ore have been discovered and now await development. At Grote's Point, too, new discoveries are announced. Decided increase is shown in the aggregate export of minerals from Newfoundland, for the year ending June 30th, 1898. This includes copper ore, 38,915 tons to the United Kingdom; copper ore, 17,801 tons to the United States; copper regulus, 9,616 tons to the United Kingdom; finis, 970 tons to the United Kingdom; iron pyrites, 15,724 tons to the States; manganese, 1,500 tons to the United States; arsenical pyrites, 125 tons to the United States; iron ore, 44,627 tons to different places. The wood pulp manufactory will be in work next year. Meanwhile the fishery has been good. The price of fish has advanced, and there is a prospect of a still further rise. The French catch is decidedly short, also the Norwegian.

THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

What is the meaning of the open door to which the Americans are pledged in the Philippines? It means, according to the New York Times, that "Congress will govern the Philippines as it governs the District of Columbia, except that it will have a freer hand, and will act without clear constitutional guidance. The status of the Philippines will be that of a dependent colony, governed by laws made by Congress and executed by officers appointed by the President, with such aid as they may choose to obtain and be able to obtain from native sources." The position occupied by the Philippines will, according to this authority, be different from that of a territory of the United States, otherwise the same customs and excise laws which apply to the States and Territories would apply to these islands, and all the revenue of the islands would have to be obtained from customs duties on foreign goods, which, the Times points out, "would give rise to bad feelings and lead to friction and trouble." With Senator Morgan, the Times holds that "the constitution does not enter into the question at all," for the reason that that instrument does not extend beyond the confines of the United States. The distinction between the United States and a colony of the United States, here made, is intelligible. It is admitted that the authority of Congress over the islands may have to be assumed, if it cannot be found. It is difficult to reconcile some of the above positions with the decision of Chief Justice Marshall, in *Loughborough vs. Blake*, quoted to sustain them. Wheaton decides that the "power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises" extends to the whole of the American Empire. Mr. Goldwin Smith could have shown the judge that the word empire applies only to such places as the Philippines, so far is the decision from excluding those islands. Will the Philippines, though a colony, not the less be a part of the territory of the United States? If not, on what ground is the differentiation

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