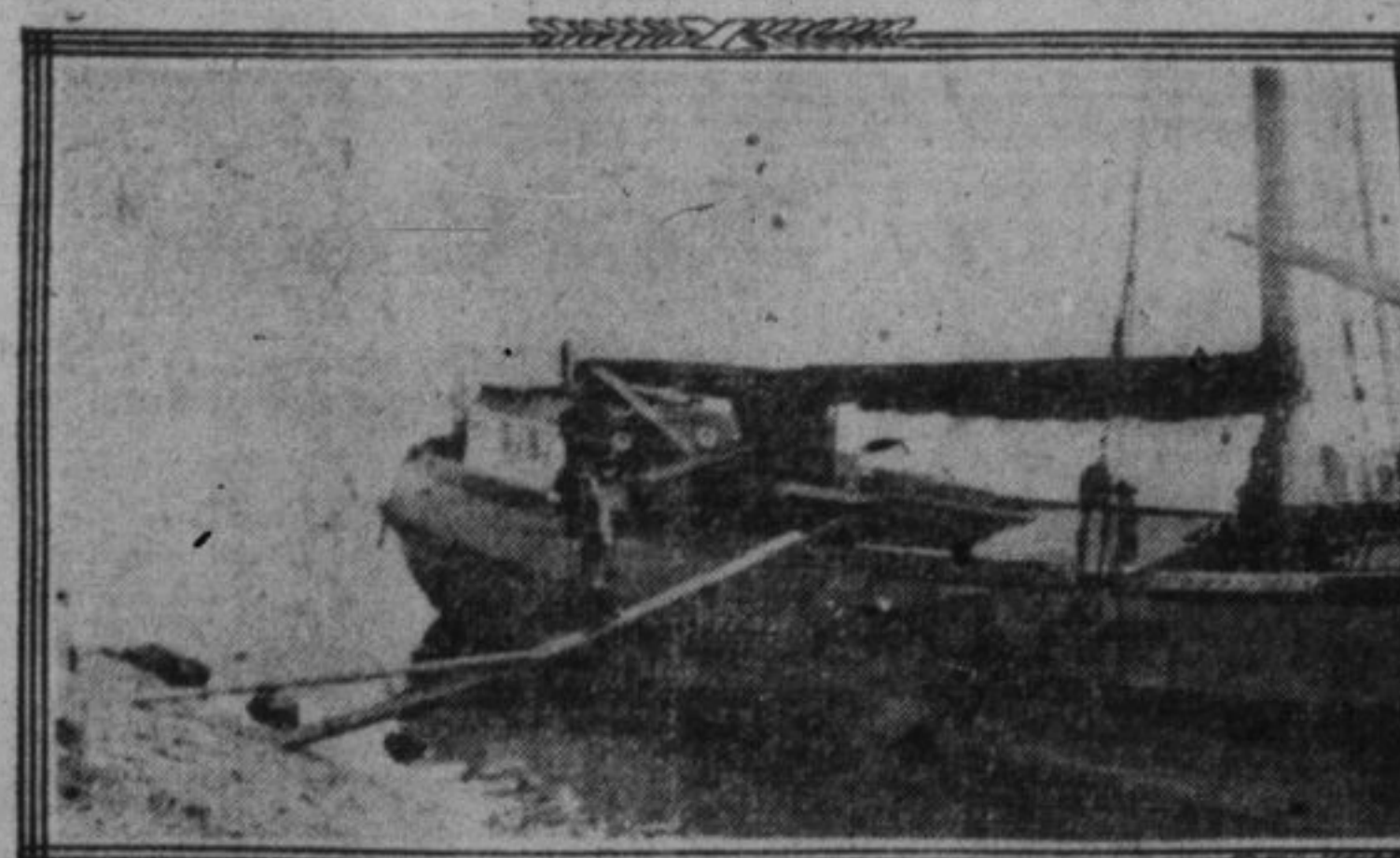


PEAT A POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL



Unloading a Peat-Carrying Vessel at a European Port



A Peat Gatherer in a Peat Bog, Ireland



Delivering Peat to Householders in Holland



Unloading Peat



Interior of a Foreign Cottage Showing a Peat Fire

the Latin authors, who wrote of the conquest of northern and western Europe by the Romans, told, in wonder, of the practices of the people of those regions of digging the soil from their marsh lands and burning it, after it had been dried, to warm their fires and cook their food. In Ireland peat has been the only domestic fuel of the mass of the people from the traditional time when the forests of the country were cleared away, and it is estimated that the peat of the Emerald Isle, by the use of peat, save not less than \$30,000,000 a year that they would otherwise be obliged to expend for coal.

During the present season of strikes and rumors of strikes in the coal mining regions in all parts of the world, attention has been directed as never before to the subject of possible substitutes for coal as fuel. In the United States the necessity for such a quest has been brought home to the people with increasing emphasis because of the realization that our coal deposits—particularly in the case of hard coal—are slowly but surely being exhausted while the reckless prodigality with which the American forests have been cut down during the past half century precludes the possibility of relying to any extent upon wood for fuel, at least for many years to come.

However, the United States is holding in trust for future generations a considerable store of one form of substitute for coal the very existence of which has been overlooked by a large share of our population. This hidden heat-producer is none other than peat. Compared to coal, peat is most distinctly a low grade fuel and there are difficulties connected with utilizing it for fuel, due to the fact that in its natural state the material contains only about ten per cent. of combustible matter and ninety per cent. of water. At the same time peat is being successfully used for fuel in many European countries and with improved facilities for the production of a really well-cured compressed peat fuel there would appear every likelihood that the time will come when, with a constantly rising price of coal, it will be well worth the while of the people in certain sections of the United States to develop the peat deposits which may ultimately take rank as one of our important natural resources.

Peat is familiar by reputation to many of us—particularly to those

Americans whose parents came to the New World from the Old. Often it is designated by other names. The Irish, for instance, usually refer to it as "turf," or mayhap dub the peat blocks "sods." Peat, when looked at through scientific spectacles, resolves itself into partly decomposed and disintegrated vegetable matter, and, as may be surmised, a considerable lapse of time has been required for its formation. Moreover, the presence of water which makes an excellent medium for preserving the remains of dead plants is an essential aid to peat formation. Thus in the United States, as in other parts of the world, true peat is to be found only in those regions which are plentifully supplied with water. The color of peat varies from brown to black, according to its age and the conditions under which it accumulates. It is all peat alike even in texture. For example, it may be light and spongy or coarse and porous, or it may be firm and compact. It may be found as a mass devoid of structure and which, though plastic as clay when wet, becomes a dense, hard mass when dry. After peat has been dug or cut from its earthy bed and stacked in the open to dry it is usually found that the fuel grows a shade or two lighter in color. However, there are some exceptions to this rule, particularly in the case of the dark-colored peat varieties above mentioned, which, when thoroughly dry are nearly as hard and compact as coal. The tendency of much of the peat to crumble when it has been dried to the stage where it will float in water has a disadvantage in that it makes it ill-adapted to lengthy transportation or the necessity of frequent rehandling.

The use of peat as fuel in Europe dates back many centuries. Indeed,

Charles A. Davis, says that a readily marketable type of peat fuel, in the form of air-dried, slightly compressed blocks can probably be produced at an expense of from 75 cents to \$1.25 or \$1.50 per ton. In any event the average "ultimate consumer" could probably buy at least two tons of peat for the price of one ton of coal of any kind and not even the very best grade of coal has twice the heating value, pound for pound, of good fuel peat.

When Americans do get ready, as there are indications they will in the very near future, to make use of our wealth of peat as a substitute for coal they can find illuminating object lessons in the experience of European nations, which, as explained above, have been using peat as fuel for centuries past.

Any American farmer or land owner who has a peat bog on his property, may readily prepare his own fuel if he will adopt the simple method of cutting peat in vogue in Denmark, Ireland, and other countries where this form of fuel is a mainstay of the major portion of the population. The part of the bog to be "worked" is first drained by means of ditches, after which an area is cleared to be used as a drying ground and then the actual work of cutting is begun. The tools used for cutting peat in different European countries vary somewhat in size and shape, but the most highly approved implement is a stout narrow spade, having the length and width of the bricks to be cut. The size of the peat bricks also varies in different countries, but the usual range is from ten to eighteen inches in length and from four to six inches in width, by three to six inches in thickness. The newly-cut blocks are placed on the drying ground and allowed to dry and drain for several days and are then stacked (exposed to the seasoning influence of the air) to remain until needed for fuel. In some localities peat machines are used to dig the peat, but the product should not be confused with "machine peat," the term used to designate peat that after being dug has been subjected to a process of grinding or macerating and pressing before it is fastened into bricks.

Peat, when manufactured into fuel by machinery, is so efficient that it is actually preferred to coal by many residents of foreign countries. In Holland, for instance, the best grade of machine peat sells at prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$6.30 per ton, and yet many of the residents buy it for domestic use in preference to coal which is obtainable at only \$4 per ton. In Holland, by the way, the transportation of peat is carried on almost wholly by means of the huge shallow-draft boats that navigate the canals and other waterways of the Netherlands. The loading and unloading of the fuel is carried on with the greatest possible care, as has been explained, it is likely to crumble more or less if subjected to rough handling.

Its employment as fuel by no means exhausts the properties and usefulness of peat. Only recently, Denmark and other countries have undertaken experiments looking to the manufacture of alcohol from peat, and in Ireland and elsewhere, ammonia is made from peat. Tanning materials have been obtained in Europe from peat as have likewise brown dyes, and this versatile material is also being employed as fertilizer.

THE BEST DRESSED WOMAN. More Than Money is Needed for a Well Dressed Woman.

Christian Herald.

The best dressed woman is not necessarily the one who spends the most money. Time, thought and taste tell to the advantage of dress. Those who persist in speaking of carelessness in dress as if it were a merit are greatly mistaken. To be pleasingly though, far better, not elaborately dressed, and as attractive as she may be, is every woman's duty, and the dress that suits the occasion confers dignity upon the wearer.

"Why do you wear a pretty bow in your hair, and take so much pains to have a becoming tie?" some one asked the teacher of a large class in the public school. "I wear my ribbons and put on my bows and make myself attractive because I have to influence for good fifty boys every day" was the reply.

The teacher was right. Her boys believed in her much more than they would had she been a dowdy.

Slipped a Cog.

London Advertiser.

The Toronto News says that the Manchester Guardian, the greatest liberal daily in Great Britain, opposes the home rule bill, which is therefore dead. The opposition of the Guardian would be a blow indeed to the Asquith government and the Irish cause. Happily for both, the Guardian is enthusiastically in favor of the child provisions of the bill. It merely suggests that the Irish senate be elective instead of appointive.

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Best in the World—St. Louis, 1904. Sold only in Lead Pockets. By All Grocers.

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The Splendor of our Showing will exceed that of previous Opening

174 WELLINGTON ST.

DEATH OF THOMAS ENNIS.

Old Resident of Battersea Has Passed Away.

Battersea, April 30.—On April 27th Thomas Ennis, of this place, passed to his final reward. He had been ill for about a year and was confined to his bed four months. Through it all he was very patient, although at times his suffering was severe. The greater part of his life was spent in this locality. He possessed land five acres, on the homestead, Elsworth, living in the village, Adan, Youngstown, Ohio; Benjamin, Winnipeg, William, New York city. Mrs. Ennis, who survives her husband, is living in the new house Mr. Ennis recently built, and moved into five months ago. The funeral took place on Monday. Three beautiful wreaths were placed on the casket by the sons. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. W. H. Peace, assisted by Rev. W. H. Dale, of Staley's Bay, nephew of deceased. The altar and railing were draped for the occasion.

Miss Marion Cunningham, Ida Hill, and Mr. Wood, Willettsville, spent Sunday, at Dr. Lake's. Otto Vanhulven, Queen's College, who has been home at the Vanhulven House for the past three weeks, left for Sweden on Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Williams, Utica, N.Y., are visitors at W. Orm's.

The oldest son of H. Buett has been quite low with tonsillitis, but is improving. Mrs. Jamison, sr., who has been sick with a grippe, is a little better. The Ladies' Aid will meet Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Charles Sleeth. Quarterly services will be held and sacrament administered in the Methodist church next Sunday.

Other visitors are Miss Buck, Bay City, Mich., and Mr. and Mrs. Leveque, Elgin, at Mrs. T. Ennis'. Rev. W. W. Lake, Staley's Bay, at his father's, R. Lake's.

Belleville Board of Trade.

Belleville, May 3.—At the annual meeting of the Belleville Board of Trade, the following officers were elected: President, J. Elliott; vice-president, H. F. Ketcheson; treasurer, H. Sneyd; secretary, Col. Ponton; council of the board, C. M. Reid, J. W. Johnson, M.P.P., P. J. Wills, W. B. Riggs, T. Blackburn, C. J. Howell, J. O. Herity, W. B. Deacon, C. W. Springer, A. E. Bailey and W. MacLachlan; auditors, Col. Lazier and Henry Pringle. The board has had an increase of 174 members this year.

J. W. Johnson, M.L.A., Col. Ponton and ex-Mayor Graham, will represent the board at the imperial chamber of commerce to be held in London, England, this summer.

Death at Sharpton.

Sharpton, May 1.—After an illness extending over ten months, Miss Emma Maxwell, second daughter of Robert Maxwell, passed peacefully away at her home on Wednesday evening. She was of a bright and cheerful disposition, and bore her suffering with great patience and fortitude. Her death has cast a gloom over the entire community in which she lived, it being particularly sad, as it is the first break in the family. Deceased was a Methodist in religion and highly respected by all who knew her. Besides her sorrowing parents, she leaves two brothers and three sisters, Albert and Percy, Alida and Edna, all of Sharpton, and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, of Kingston.

Changed the Big Bill.

Not wishing to buy tickets, the passenger offered the conductor a dollar bill and asked for change. "Sorry, I can't do it," said the man in uniform, "but I can change a five or a ten if you have one."

Several people in the car looked up in amazement at this, but the passenger produced the five dollar bill, received certain moneys in exchange, and smiled enigmatically at the crowd.

No explanation was offered by either party to the transaction, and there are a lot of Toronto folk still wondering how the conductor made that change.

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The abdominal support is a feature of this model. Made in all sizes. Cleverly designed to give firm support, yet is wonderfully supple.

Ask for them in the best stores. This is Model No. 619.

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SCRANTON COAL

is good Coal and we guarantee prompt delivery.

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FOOT WEST STREET.

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THE LEADING FLORIST

324 KING STREET.

Special prices in Cut Flowers. See our window display.

Wedding Bouquets and Floral Designs. Floral Sprays a specialty. Sweet Pea Seed in Bulk Named Varieties.

Phones: Store, 233, Conservatories, 235 Residence, 1212.

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25 Watts 65c

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Every light guaranteed.

Also 8 and 16 c.p. Carbon

Lights. Saves two-thirds consumption of electricity and gives infinitely better light at half cost.

A. MITCHELL,

W. HARDWARE

Home of the Peerless Lawn Fence.



A PRACTICAL OUTING HAT TRIMMED WITH STRAW.

Graceful—and most practical in character—is this outing hat of white milan, trimmed in novel fashion with supple white straw braid. A broad band of the straw braid, vined at one end, is looped around itself in a very simple and simple knot, and this is all the trimming the hat boasts. With this hat is worn a very dainty new outing waist, trimmed with a deep collar of Colbert embroidery and a neckbow of cerise taffeta silk. The waist accompanies an outing-skirt of white mohair, heavily stitched and short enough to show buttoned boots of white buckskin.



HAMILTON DRANE, Who plays "Jack Meredith" in "With Edged Tools," at the Grand Opera House, May 4th, matinee and evening.