

THE PEAT COMPRESSION WORKS—Of the Messrs. Babcock, at the Sulphur Springs, in the town of Gates, two miles west of the city, are an operation well worth visiting, as the obliging superintendent initiates all reasonable enquirers into all its operations.

The works are situated in the centre of the peat bed, consisting of about twenty acres, which material is dried and pulverized on the beds and transported on rail tracks to covered buildings 200 feet long, from whence it goes into the machine driven by a 25 horse power engine, and is forced out a cylindrical solid $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and the same in diameter, of a tenacity about equal to a soft burned brick, perfectly dry and fit for burning, and at the rate of over 100 per minute, and weighing half a pound each.

The material appears to be good, and thoroughly converted into a carbonaceous mass. It burns under their steam boiler with a bright, active flame, and makes steam rapidly.

The company are hardly in operation yet, and have not fixed any price to the article, and the only question as to their success resolves itself into their ability to produce it at a price that will compete with coal and relieve the public from the monstrous swindles of the coal monopolists. The company at any rate are bound to give the article a fair trial, and we should like to see a locomotive engine run with it, to Charlotte and back, and a fair trial instituted between it coal and wood, as an economical producer of heat.

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