the use of natural gas, are of a revolutionary character. In the city and surrounding country, not less than ten million dollars have been invested within a year, said a writer in 1884. "A year ago the business was insignificant; to-day, it ranks in importance with the iron, steel, glass, and coal interests of western Pennsylvania. There are at present ten iron and steel mills in this city using this gas in their puddling furnaces and under their boilers; a dozen more are busy making arrangements for its introduction, and almost every manufacturing firm using steam is awaiting the completion of the necessary pipe lines. Six glass factories in the city, and seven others in the immediate vicinity are using it. Every brewer in the city uses it. Two of the largest hotels use it exclusively for cooking purposes. For general household use, on account of its cheapness, cleanliness, and convenience of application, it has no rival."

The city of Buffalo is also said to be laying pipe lines for gas from the Pennsylvania gas districts.

Our modern forests are the chief producers of fuel in human times. The sea supports a vast amount of vegetation; but we have not learned how to apply it to the production of heat. Yet, strange as it seems, the sea-weeds which waved their graceful fronds in the oceans of millions of years ago, are smelting the iron for the pipes destined to bring their transformed constituents to the sites of gigantic industries, and warming the dwellings of the populations which conduct them.

Will these marvelous supplies hold out? That is the question which the owners of the millions invested are anxiously asking. Probably, as has been proved with petroleum, particular wells will gradually diminish in supply; many will cease to yield; some will continue indefinitely. But probably, also, as in the case of petroleum, new supplies will be discovered, and even increasing demands will be met for many years in the future.