

oil will be transported to a refinery is

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The "bringing in" of this well illustrates the difficulty of petroleum development. Convinced that the geological structure was particularly favorable, the projectors determined to gamble \$75,000 on drilling. Before they got oll they had spent more than

For years wells have been drilling in various parts of the state-fully 200 in all-at a cost of probably \$5,000,000, and this canyon well is the first real producer! It is only by dint

of such persistence in coping with that the country's supply of oll is maintained. The first oil well in Western Pennsylvania became a producer at the depth of 691/2 feet. Nowadays wells a mile deep are not uncommon, and they have gone down as far

## Every Well is a Gamble

A large proportion of wells produce nothing whatever and represent total loss. It was recently estimated that in the last twelve and a half years \$1,200,000,000 was sunk in wells which were failures. Despite every effort of science, engineering and long experience, and notwithstanding the stupendous depths now reached, 25 per cent of wells last year were dry.

The "wildcatter" is the Columbus of oil. He is to petroleum, to gasoline, to the fuel supply of the country's 20,000,000 automobiles, what the oldtime gold prospector was to building the empire of the far west. He is essentially a gambler; good loser or good winner. The lure of enormous winnings keeps him tirelessly searching, and sometimes he finds his reward. But in the aggregate, offsetting all winnings against the total cost of this engrossing gamble, it is not improbable that all the oil that has been taken from the soil of this country from the beginning cost, more than its

## A World in the Big Game

But their huge gamble is the basis on which the whole industry rests. transport by land, sea and air They vide an istonishing share of its power, The "wildcatter' is woll nigh the