

THE PETROLEUM SUPPLY.

A Member of Pennsylvania's Geological Survey Takes a Glimpse View.

John F. Carl is assistant geologist of the State of Pennsylvania, and for several years it has been his special business to collect statistics and all available information regarding petroleum and natural gas.

In conversation with Prof. Carl he expressed some rather sensational opinions regarding the future supply of petroleum. Notwithstanding other views are taken by producers. Prof. Carl says the petroleum fields of Pennsylvania are being rapidly drained, and at the present rate of exhaustion it will not be many years until the question of supplying the world with petroleum will be a most serious one. "For the last year," said Prof. Carl, "the supply was 5,000,000 barrels short of demand, as gauged by former years, and every day the demand is more and the supply much less. A few years ago the reverse was the case. Stocks were piling up at the rate of 2,000,000 barrels per month, or about that, and now they are being decreased at the rate of 1,000,000 barrels a month, and have been for the last year. This shortage in the supply includes the large production of the Ohio fields, where extraordinary results have been obtained in the way of large wells." There are now something like 12,000,000 barrels of petroleum in tanks in the Ohio field, but this was because Ohio oil was not yet used extensively as an illuminant.

Prof. Carl was asked his opinion regarding the probable extent of the Ohio field and said he believed it would be found much less in extent than the trade and the public generally believed. There have been opinions expressed that the yield of the Ohio field could be increased to 100,000 barrels a day. He thought it would not last long at this rate of production. "When this field comes to be entirely defined," he said, "it is pretty sure to fall very much below the expectations that are now held out for it." When asked if he thought Ohio oil would ever be successfully refined and enter the market as a competitor of the Pennsylvania product he said: "I certainly hope so. Without this oil I can not see where the world's supply is to come from, and it would be a very great hardship to the people if they had to give up this cheap and popular illuminant. Neither gas nor electricity, in my judgment, can ever take its place as a means of illumination for the masses. And yet, with the known fields being as rapidly exhausted as they are, I look before many years for a great scarcity of petroleum."

Bradford was the field that produced such an extraordinary quantity of oil, piling up the stocks on tanks until they reached 36,000,000 barrels, with the fields still yielding 60,000 barrels a day or thereabout. In regard to the possibility of another such field being discovered Prof. Carl said he believed there was absolutely no likelihood of it. The number of experimental wells that had been drilled in search of another Bradford sand in all parts of the country seemed to establish the fact that Bradford was unique and alone. He did not believe that such a petroleum deposit as this would ever be found in any country in the world. The Bradford field and its annex in Allegany County, New York, are apparently being drained to the dregs. At one time the production of the field was as high as 105,000 barrels every twenty-four hours. Now it is down below 20,000, possibly as low as 18,000 barrels. Bradford has produced about 56,000,000 barrels of oil, and a pool that will yield the fifty-sixth part of this is something that the oil-producer is eagerly looking for. Prof. Carl said there were yet possibilities of opening up small pools that would produce from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 barrels, even in some of the old fields, such as Venango, Warren and Butler Counties, in Pennsylvania, but even these possibilities were growing more and more remote.

The Cogley field, which has produced about 3,000,000 barrels, was the last extensive field found in Venango County, and this was perhaps as large a field as would ever be found there again.—Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Unceremonious Caller.

At Harvard last winter Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks noticed three young men who came to hear him regularly, and as they looked like working men, he was more interested than usual. He took pains to find out who they were, and made an opportunity to speak with them. Having ascertained where they lived and what they did, he went one day to call on them. He climbed several flights of stairs and knocked at the door. All three of the young men were in, and they were taking their comforts in their shirt sleeves. Naturally they were a trifle embarrassed at being surprised by this man, to whom they looked up with so much respect. Dr. Brooks shook hands all around, and then said, with his cheerful smile, "Well, boys, it's a little warm here; I think, if you will let me, I will take off my coat," and he did, and sat down and made his call in his shirt sleeves.—Boston Journal.

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Has at last arrived, and after a great expense and much trouble, can be seen free of cost, quietly enjoying the sea breezes that waft across the marshes near the 16th street station, Oakland, Cal., where for the present he is to be quartered. This ponderous animal was imported to the United States by the Sierra Chemical Company, the manufacturers of the Great Sierra Kidney and Liver Cure that has so recently gained a position as the leading Kidney and Liver Cure on this coast. All druggists have these valuable goods for sale. White elephants in their own country are a religious phenomena and are worshiped by the natives with all the faith they possess. He is at this writing, in the charge of Mr. V. P. Mitchell, Oakland's only naturalist, at whose command he quietly submits to any and all calls. Mr. Mitchell has perfect control over this great and truly wonderful beast of the jungle. His proportions are immense, standing 20 feet high by 50 feet from head to tail. His tusks are 10 feet long, and as he stands with the sun shining upon his magnificent pure white skin, the effect upon the looker-on is marvelous, being that of an immense mountain of living snow. Don't fail to see this natural curiosity. It is an event of a lifetime—without money or price. All Overland and Berkeley trains pass the station, 16th street. It will pay everybody to see this monarch of the animal world.

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