

How Schemers Fleece Public

Oil Tricks, Stopped by New Policy, Described by Interior Department.

Washington.—"What," asks the Department of Interior in a recent press memorandum, "is behind the 34,000 permits, involving millions of acres of land, issued to individuals and companies to prospect for oil and gas on the public domain since the general leasing law was passed by congress nine years ago? Why have these permits ripened into only fifty-six leases? Why have 15,000 permittees, whose rights have already been canceled for noncompliance with the law, allowed their claims to lapse? And how will the new federal oil conservation policy curb the speculation in the potential oil lands of the country?"

"These," the bulletin continues, "are some of the questions that have caused the Department of the Interior to issue a statement describing the speculation in the public domain and the methods by which promoters have been able to turn the lure of oil to their own profit and to the disadvantage of the public in exploiting the national resources."

"Many letters are on file at the department which reveal the methods by which individuals have been imposed upon in the matter of these oil lands."

"I subscribed for twenty-five acres of oil land," wrote an enlisted man in the army, "to be filed on at \$2 per acre. I have already paid \$10 and will pay \$10 more this day. The land is supposed to be United States government land."

"Another correspondent who had begun to become suspicious of an oil development scheme wrote:

Explains Permit.

"An oil and gas application is the holder's claim to the right to prospect on 2,500 acres of public land. This is filed in the local land office with a description of the land. A permit is his right to prospect which grows out of the application. The law requires that drilling be done progressively within time limits. Upon discovery of oil, the permittee is entitled to a lease, paying the government a royalty on all oil produced."

"It is admitted that many permits have been acquired by legitimate developers and the government has received millions of dollars in royalty from their efforts. No censure is attached to them. But upon the passage of the general leasing act, thousands of applications for prospecting permits were filed for land in so-called 'wildcat' territory, which, by the way, is land that has no visible

evidence of containing oil and gas. "These applications were filed in many instances without geological examination and by individuals without financial means of complying with the drilling requirements of the law. They had no special reason to believe that oil was present. Actual development, obviously, was not their purpose. Apparently, the hope was to obtain permits and hold them until some one had tested land for oil and gas in the vicinity, which would enable them to sell out at a large profit or secure a royalty on any oil that might be produced on their own area by others."

"When these permits were canceled for lack of development work, the lands would be filed upon again. Upon the failure of the second permittee to do the necessary prospecting work to hold the land, a third crop of applications might be filed, thus holding the land indefinitely without development."

"In the early days, when permits were canceled, the land became subject to another filing by the first qualified applicant at the district land office. The practice was criticized because certain people might obtain advance information as to when the permit was to be canceled and thus have an advantage over others. Later, the General Land Office allowed all interested parties to file on a canceled area, awarding the land to the individual whose number was first drawn."

"To take advantage of this situation interested persons or companies obtained the applications of hundreds of people whom they could control. It was like buying a multitude of chances in a lottery. The greater the number of controlled applicants at the time of drawing the better would be the chances of an individual or company getting the land. In one drawing there were 7,000 applications filed for a single tract of land—another evidence of pure speculation on behalf of the applicants. To circumvent this a \$10 filing fee was required of each applicant at drawings in recent years, which materially reduced the number."

Efforts to Safeguard the Public.

"That the general leasing law has been used by many unscrupulous persons and associations for their own special benefit and to the detriment of those induced to enter into their schemes has long been apparent to the Department of the Interior, and every means possible has been taken to safeguard the public. Some of the schemes violate the general laws against fraud rather than the public land laws. They may involve an improper use of the mails and so need to be prosecuted by the Post Office Department. They are carefully watched by the authorities who enforce the various state and federal laws with which they come into conflict."

"A correspondent who is a mining engineer and geologist wrote the department as follows:

"I found that every available acre of public land which was within ten miles had been tied up with permits overlapping one another so that in places they were two or three

deep and over lands that had been taken as grazing homesteads or the mineral rights withheld. The parties who had obtained the permits were boomers, men without any knowledge or experience in oil structures or lands, without any money or backing or standing to obtain any and whose sole object was to get one to try it out for a little cash and agreement to get a share of the royalties. They would hold the permits as long as they could and then come back for renewal without even so much as digging a five-foot hole on them."

"In one instance an attorney prepared applications in blank or had them signed by people scattered through several states and forwarded to him. He held them until such time as he could discover from the district land office records lands which were subject to filing and then inserted the description of the land in the application. If the application had been executed some time in advance the date would be changed so as to conform more nearly to the time of the filing of the application. Usually these applications were accompanied by a power of attorney given to him by the applicant. In each instance the attorney would retain for himself a certain royalty interest and the holder of the application would have little to say as to the operations under the application or permit. Thus one man might control thousands of acres embraced in the applications and permits. The purpose of the law, that of giving individual citizens a chance to acquire valuable land, was thus interfered with."

"Interest" in Associations.

"Another group of persons advertised extensively that government oil land might be had at a nominal cost, that every citizen had a right to claim his share, that the promoters would show the way to great profits through these rights. They cited outstanding successes of others on government land. They proposed to organize associations, which they induced hundreds of people throughout the United States to join. Interest in these associations were sold for \$2 an acre, not more than 100 acres going to any one person. They advertised that the interest holders would have nothing to do except to draw the royalties when oil was discovered, the backers of the association attending to all the details looking toward compliance with the terms of the permit."

"The filing of an oil and gas application for permit for 2,500 acres cost \$32 in fees. The association under this scheme would thus make a profit of \$5,088 on each application filed. The evidence is that these associations have done little more than file the applications. Their purpose, evidently, has not been oil development. The investors in their associations have taken long chances of getting any return on their investments, even where the associations have carried on development work, for all such applications have been filed on lands within strictly wildcat territory."

"The exploitation of the public through these permits to prospect will be automatically stopped by the application of President Hoover's oil conservation policy. Under that policy permits to prospect are not to be granted. Since they are not to be granted promoters will not be able to profit because of any alleged prospects of wealth that might lie in them. One element of speculation that is likely to be a part of the development of oil and mining areas will have been removed."

For the five months ended with May the trade balance was in favor of the United States by \$298,632,000. In that period, exports aggregated \$2,232,449,000, while imports totaled \$1,933,817,000. That favorable balance was greater than in the corresponding 1928 period when exports of \$1,989,328,000, compared with imports of \$1,768,683,000, leaving a favorable balance of but \$220,645,000. Both exports and imports for the first five months of the current year were larger than for the corresponding five months of 1928.

CHIEF JUSTICE RECOVERS



W. H. Taft.

Washington.—Fully recovered from the ailment which sent him to a hospital recently, Chief Justice Taft arrived at his summer home at Murray Bay, Canada. The chief justice is looking forward to a restful vacation during which, however, he will not be free of the cares of his high office. He will undertake, before his return to Washington, a review of a number of cases now before the court and will give attention to other court business while enjoying the friendships he has built up at Murray Bay.

IMPORTS INCREASE OVER U. S. EXPORTS

Former Totaled \$401,000,000; Latter Only \$387,000,000.

Washington.—For the first time since April, 1926, imports of American products last month exceeded exports of foreign goods with the result that an unfavorable balance was created in May. Exports, according to the Department of Commerce, aggregated only \$387,000,000, while imports reached an aggregate of \$401,000,000. A surplus of imports amounting to \$14,000,000 was left. In April, 1926, the unfavorable balance was \$10,000,000.

In the corresponding period of last year, exports totaled \$421,676,000, while imports reached only \$354,715,000, thus creating a favorable balance of \$66,961,000 for May, 1928.

Various reasons were offered for the reversal of American foreign trade in May. One was the rush of foreign imports to avoid a prospective increase in American import tariffs, it was said. Another explanation was the high money rates in the United States, which depressed foreign currencies. Attention was called to the fact that imports for May were larger in value than any May in the last six years.

On the other hand, exports dropped in comparison with last year. E. Dana Durand, of the statistical research division of the Department of Commerce, said the decline was due to the decrease in the value of cotton exports. Exports of cotton last month totaled only \$43,000,000, while in the corresponding period of last year they aggregated \$65,000,000 or \$22,000,000 more.

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Retrial Is Denied to Kentucky Dry Slayers

Louisville, Ky.—Two officers who killed in a prohibition raid were held to have been rightfully convicted when they appeared before Judge Charles I. Dawson in Federal court and asked for a retrial of their case. In the first trial each was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The officers, Roy Miller, prohibition agent, and Clarence Gossett, deputy sheriff, both of Hopkinsville, Ky., were said to be the first ever convicted of killing a citizen when a case of that nature was transferred from a state to a United States court.

Give SOS Calls Right of Way

Washington.—All broadcasting stations were ordered by the federal radio commission to cease sending whenever their operations might interfere with SOS calls from ships or airplanes.

Give \$1,000,000 to Hospital

Chicago.—Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan and his wife announce a gift of \$1,000,000 to the Presbyterian hospital for a large extension program. The hospital expects to raise \$6,000,000 for its project.

Signs to Fight Heeney

Charleroi, Pa.—Harry Fay, heavy-weight boxer of Charleroi, signed a contract to fight Tom Heeney, Australian heavyweight, at Miami, Fla., on July 4.

DEBENTURE PLAN IS DEFEATED BY HOUSE

Farm Relief Measure May Be in Effect by July.

Washington.—President Hoover won the support of the house in his fight to defeat the debenture plan of farm relief when that body rejected the subsidy scheme by a vote of 250 to 113.

While the two branches of congress are now technically at odds on the issue, enough senators have indicated their readiness to drop the fight for the debenture to assure a reversal of the senate's action in support of the bounty.

The house voted directly on the debenture, when Representative Tilson, Connecticut, Republican floor leader, moved the conferees be instructed to insist that this amendment by the senate be struck from the bill.

Thirty-four Democrats voted against the debenture plan, thirteen Republicans for it. Eighteen pairs were announced, showing five Democrats against debenture and two Republicans for it, with the Farmer-Laborites also in favor of the bounty.

The Tammany Democrats from New York went overwhelmingly against debenture.

Democrats who voted against the subsidy were:

Aswell, Louisiana; Black, Bloom, Boylan, Curley, Cullen, Dickstein, Fitzpatrick, Griffin, Lindsay, Mead, Quayle, Somers and Sullivan of New York; Cochran, Missouri; Crosser and Mooney of Ohio; Douglas, Arizona; Drane, Green, Yon, Florida; Kincheloe, Kentucky; Lea, California; Ludlow, Indiana; McCormack, Douglas, Massachusetts; Montague, Moore, Woodrum, Virginia; O'Connell, Rhode Island; Palmisano, Maryland; Smith, West Virginia; Whittington, Mississippi; Auf Der Heide, New Jersey.—34.

Republicans voting for debenture were:

Browne, Hull, Lampert, Nelson, Schneider, Wisconsin; Campbell, Iowa; Christagu, Selvig, Minnesota; James, Michigan; Johnson, Williamson, South Dakota; Lambertson, Kansas; Sinclair, North Dakota.—13.

Democrats paired against debenture were:

O'Connell and Corning, New York; Mrs. Norton, New Jersey; Connery, Massachusetts, and De Rouen, Louisiana.

Republicans paired for debenture: Christopherson, South Dakota, and Fraz, Wisconsin.

The majority of 137 against putting the debenture plan in the farm relief bill came as a surprise to opponents of the bounty. It was equally surprising to the southern Democrats in favor of it.

That the house is dead set against the debenture plan was the construction placed upon the overwhelming defeat. Once the conferees report an agreement with the senate leaders in favor of eliminating the item another overwhelming vote in favor of that course undoubtedly will follow in the house.

It was predicted that the farm relief measure may be in effect by July.

Austrian Girl Winner in World Beauty Show

Galveston, Texas.—Miss Lisl Goldarbeiter of Austria was crowned "Miss Universe" at the International Pageant of Pulchritude here. It was the first time in the history of the pageant a foreign beauty captured the title of beauty queen of the universe. In the final count she received six votes to one for Miss Magda Demetrescu, representing Rumania.

"Miss Universe" was awarded \$2,000 in gold and a silver plaque. Miss Ahlberg was voted the second prize of \$1,000.

Six of the eight other beauties who finished in the money were North American girls. "Miss Ohio," Dorothy Jean Davis of Massillon, was ranked third and was awarded a \$500 prize.

"Miss Greater New York," Miss Irene Ahlberg, was the North American hope for the first award. The eighteen-year-old blonde stenographer had been chosen "Miss United States" in a field of 34 contestants.

Census Report Is to Be Made by Districts

Washington.—Population statistics of the 1930 decennial census will be announced publicly in each of 500 districts immediately after they are gathered, instead of being tabulated first in Washington.

William M. Steuart, director of the census, explains that this procedure would be followed for the first time with the forthcoming census, in order that inaccuracies may be detected before the figures are tabulated for the permanent record.

At least 100,000 enumerators will be needed to canvass the nation's homes for the census, he says, and between 6,000 and 8,000 more will be employed here later.

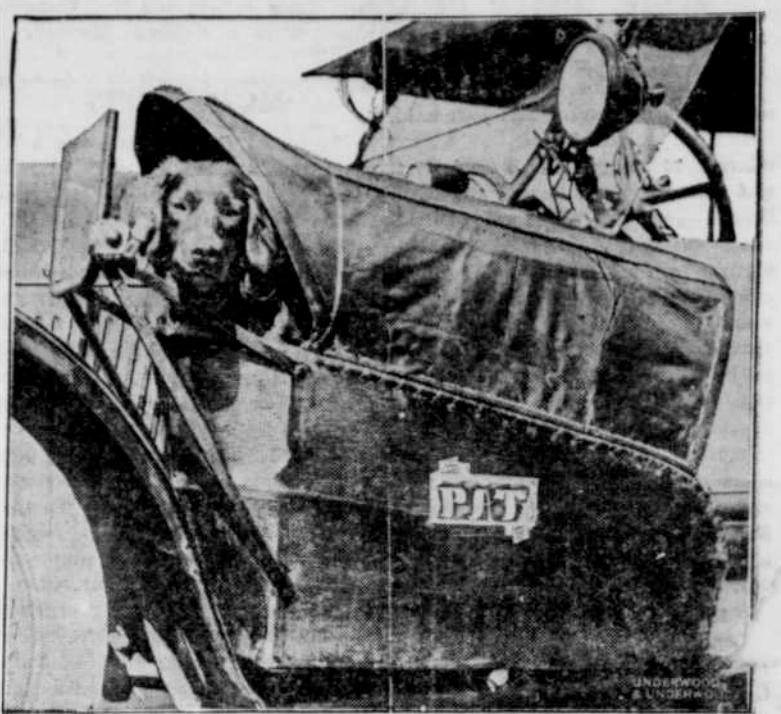
Five of Family Drown

Randolph, Vt.—Five members of one family were drowned here, four of them in attempting to rescue another. The victims were: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boardman, their son, Harry, and two daughters, Iona and Beatrice.

Chicago to Graduate 29,765

Chicago.—Chicago public schools, including senior and junior high schools, will graduate 29,765 pupils—an increase of 1,565 over last year.

CAN'T JUMP OUT OF CAR TO CHASE CATS



How the owner of the Irish Setter, Pat, manages to keep the pup from risking his life jumping from the moving car to chase cats. The little covered wagon keeps the dog safe. He's a Los Angeles dog.

THREE DEVICES WILL SAVE CARS

Minimize Wear and Increase Life of Automobile Engine.

The three devices that minimize wear and increase the automobile engine's life are air cleaners, oil filters and crankcase ventilator, students of Technology were told in an address by Sumner S. Howard, a director of service.

"The air cleaner prevents road dust from being breathed into the engine through the carburetor and causing excessive wear to cylinder walls, piston rings, etc." Mr. Howard said. "There are two types of air cleaners, each having their respective merits. One is the centrifugal type, which requires no cleaning, and the other the 'oil-wetted' type, which is easily cleaned by plunging it up and down in a can of gasoline and then re-oiling for use again. It should be cleaned according to recommendations in the car owners' instruction book."

Work of Oil Filter.

"The oil filter's 'twin brother,' the oil filter, removes the foreign matter from the crankcase oil, thus reducing engine wear and making the oil last longer. It filters the oil at the rate of about a quart a minute so that the entire contents of the crankcase are filtered about every ten minutes.

"The oil filter is an excellent device, but it must be kept so. In the most commonly used filter devices, the cartridge or straining element is good for about 10,000 miles as it then becomes clogged and the oil is by-passed without straining. It is the same as having no filter, and this is why the oil filter should be serviced after 10,000 miles operation.

Crankcase Ventilator.

"An ally of the oil filter and air cleaner in preventing wear is crankcase ventilation, which removes or minimizes water and fuel that would contaminate the oil. Crankcase ventilation, which is in quite general use, is usually accomplished in two ways. One is to pass a blast of air from a fan through a tube, causing a suction from the crankcase, which carries with it any vapors that may be present in the crankcase. The other method is to take a certain portion of air across the surface of the crankcase and into the intake of the carburetor, carrying with it the water moisture and fuel vapors."

Trains Now Halted at Unprotected Crossings

Grade crossings at towns on some of the less active branch lines of railroads in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are now unguarded without violation of rather strict laws governing the protection of intersections of roadways and railways. Until recently pensioned employees served as gatemen and flagmen at such crossings.

Pedestrians and vehicles no longer need "beware of the locomotive." The locomotive now "beware" and comes to a full stop before rolling over the crossing. This practice may cause a few seconds' delay to passengers, but it saves the railroads a considerable amount by relieving them of the necessity of stationing crossing men at points where there are but four or six trains a day.

Spring Clearances Are Lessened by Usual Use

During the inspection of the new car while one is jotting down the various identification marks and numbers, it is a good plan to measure the clearance between the centers of the springs and the frame just above. Later on, when the car has been given a season or so of hard work, it will be found that the clearances are less. If springs have settled more than a quarter of an inch as indicated by the variations in clearance measurements, the car will not ride easily.

White Crosses Too Depressing in Ohio

Motorists in Ohio have started a movement for the repeal of the law which requires the erection of a white cross at every spot along a highway where there has been a traffic fatality. To pass these crosses continuously stimulates more careful driving, it is said, but it also has a depressing effect on travelers. One 75-mile stretch of highway has 69 crosses along its sides, nearly one to a mile.

Instrument Will Tell Needs of Auto Battery



Inventor Holding New Device.

The "Uno," an instrument invented by C. W. Ward, of Los Angeles, by which the motorist can tell whether his battery needs charging and also if it has sufficient water. The device is a galvanometer acting as a voltmeter and is connected with the battery by means of a lead electrode with another insulated wire running to the starter switch. The inventor is holding the new device.

Clever Job in Freeing Sticking Accelerator

Experienced motorists do not get alarmed when the accelerator, under-lubricated at its various points of anchorage or suffering from a deficient spring tension, begins to stick slightly. They merely pull it up with the sides of their shoes. Sometimes it becomes second nature for them to resort to this practice. That is wrong. No matter how skillful one is in freeing a sticking accelerator, there are times when failure is inevitable and the punishment is inflicted upon the transmission gears. When the accelerator sticks, have it freed at once.

AUTOMOBILE FACTS

The public has averaged an investment of \$1,000,000,000 a year for the past ten years in good roads.

Happening to be on a motor highway is probably a modern town's easiest way of getting on the map.

Something else the old-timers did not receive when they bought a new horse was free service for six months or a year.

The nation rejoices happily in the possession of an ex-President who is not afraid to use a little old last year's car.

Do not have the valve clearance set closer than the factory directions call for. When set too close the valves will not seat properly when the engine is hot.

The state of Texas, largest state in the Union, has the largest highway mileage of all the states in the country. It has 180,000 miles of roads within its borders.

Small Boat for Trip Across Atlantic Ocean



Joe Leppich of Bronson, Mich. (left), aboard his homemade steel boat in which he will attempt to cross the Atlantic ocean. He will sail from Toledo through Lakes Erie and Ontario, the St. Lawrence river to St. Johns, Newfoundland, and then over to Hamburg, Germany. The ship is 25 feet long and has already withstood a fierce storm on Lake Michigan. Leppich will have four companions—Conrad Kubatko, Rudy Bentler and Henry Schnittger of Germany, and Arlo Sowers of Bronson.

AMERICANS EAT 35 LBS. MORE SUGAR EACH THAN IN 1910

Sweets Can Add Energy If Wisely Used, But Excess Is Dangerous, Says Expert.

New York.—Americans today are consuming more than 115 pounds of sugar per capita each year, or 35 pounds a year more than in 1910. What is that added 35 pounds doing to American health?

The rise of pro-sugar and anti-sugar diet faddists over the country has led Dr. Walter H. Eddy, widely known dietary expert of Columbia university, to offer a comprehensive answer to that question in the Good Housekeeping Magazine.

"Harmful effects of sugar are traceable to excesses in its use, rather than any harm in the sugar itself, which is an essential food," he points out, adding that the excess may be represented as often by the way sugar is used as by the amount consumed. The av-

erage healthy adult can consume three to four ounces a day without difficulty or ill effects, it is estimated.

The amount consumed by any individual depends largely, however, on the individual's degree of physical activity, Doctor Eddy points out.

For example, since sugar is a fuel, a boy who spends several hours a day in strenuous outdoor games can consume more than the average amount and find it advantageous, since it adds to his energy. His sister who spends the afternoon curled up with a book will quickly grow fat and slow of mind and body if she tried to eat the same amount of sugar in candy form.

The same comparison applies to the office worker, who spends his days at his desk, and the laborer whose body is being exercised through the day.

Candy itself may supply needed energy at times. With athletes, it eaten

soon before a contest, it adds fuel to supply bodily power. It is found, but if eaten before meals the result is discomforting because the chemical action of the sugar has retarded the flow of gastric juices.

"Suppose we dump a lot of sugar into the stomach just before dinner," says the Good Housekeeping article. "In the first place it tends to destroy our appetite for less strongly flavored food. If we sit down to dinner and consume our beefsteak, the steak finds no gastric juice to digest it. It has to remain there until the sugar is digested and the acid begins to flow, or it is sent on only partly digested. You see then the wisdom in placing desserts at the end of the meal."

Doctor Eddy disputes the claim that candy causes tooth decay. "Sugar is a good germ food, but it is hard to see how much of it could remain in the crevices of the teeth, since it is readily soluble in saliva and hence would be steadily diluted," he points out.

Many new railway lines are being constructed in Latvia.