WHY NOT DEVELOP THE OIL DISCOVERIES

OIL FIELDS OF THE EAST ARE RUNNING LOW.

A DEMAND FOR NEW FIELDS

Sample of Oil from Well at Pratum Is Pronounced Genuine.

Reported to Be of Very Fine Grade—Clear Color Finds Many Counterparts—Ohio Oil Men Are Interested In Oregon's Discovery.

LIMA, O., Oct. 29.—(Special). Oil and plenty of it in this section of the Buckeye State. Travel in whatever direction you may and you will see farms bristling with oil derricks and the pumps busy bringing up petroleum from the oil-bearing stratum, 1,300 feet below the tillable surface. Whole counties in the state have been developed into oil fields, until the production of the entire state now amounts to about 2,600,000 barrels per month, with some new well drilling. Of Ohio it may be said as the late Dan Emmett wrote of Pennsylvania when the oil excitement first struck the Keystone State.

"The world it revolves on its own axle-tree,
Once in a day, says G. O. Graffee;
The axle got hot and the world stopped awhile
And the people have all gone to boring for ile."

There is money in oil and plenty of it, if you strike a good flow of the greasy product. The Ohio crude brings rfom one dollar per barrel upward in the market. This year the price of wheat and the price of oil instead of the price of silver go hand in hand. The demand for the dark fluid is increasing because of the new and varied uses to which its ingredients can be put when converted into marketable products.

New territory must be discovered if the price of kerosene and the dozen or more by-products of petroleum are to remain within the reach of the average consumer. It is only a question of years when the old fields will have become exhausted. Eight years is about the limit of the average Ohio well. A good many are pumped out at three and four years. Where the new territory will be found is puzzling the heads of those who are making fortunes out of the business. The Texas and California crude are chiefly useful to oil public roads and as fuel to operate factories and railway trains in the Southwest. The once promising Kansas fields are disappointing prospectors; Wyoming and Kentucky, once active in oil operations, are now listed way down among the petroleum producing states; Pensylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana, each phenomenal in their output of petroleum, are almost fully developed as to their oil-producing territory and, when their present territory shall have been pumped dry, where will the greasy stuff that made the Standard Oil Company the most powerful financial institution in the world, be found?

What are Oregon's prospects for taking rank among the oil-producing states? The discoveries at Pratum and on the lands of the Deaf Mute school should set those in the Willamette valley interested in large things, a thinking. Some of the greatest oil fields have been discovered by following indications no more promising than those.

Take the Pennsylvania field as an illustration. Prior to 1859, crude oil was noticed floating on the water on certain springs near Titusville in that state. The Seneca Indians, for years, were in the habit of spreading blankets on the water, absorbing the oil, wringing it into crude vessels and using it as a medicine for rheumatism. The first well was drilled by Col. Edwin L. Drake in 1859.

At Clarion, Pennsylvania, oil was discovered by a young man throwing a lighted match on a small spring on the bank of the Clarion river. The hills in that vicinity are now literally bristling with derricks. In forty years, following the drilling of the first well by Col. Drake, there have been completed in the state of Pennsylvania alone 118,478 wells.

Your correspondent exhibited a small quantity of oil, which he himself drew out of the old water well at Pratum, to several of the oil-producing fraternity in this locality, and, in each instance, it was pronounced genuine and of superior quality. Mr. C. A. Coburn, one of the field officials of the Ohio Oil Company, was the first to examine the sample. He tested it by the "sweat box" process and said that it has every indication of being a very fine grade of petroleum. It is free from asphaltum, but holds considerable paraffine in solution. The kerosene odor which excites suspicion may be produced by the natural gas which when passing through very cold air or coming in touch with icy bodies will precipitate, gasoline. The light color, he said, would not argue that it was not petroleum, as the oil may have become light by long filtration through sand from some unknown depth where it lies in deposit, or it may be naturally so.

Mr. Coburn showed me nine samples of oil taken from as many fields, and each differed in color, varying from the jet black product of the Texas field to the light amber of Pennsylvania and the orange-tinted crude oil of Cuba. There was but a shade of difference in the color of some of the best Pennsylvania oils and the Oregon sample. Mr. Coburn has had extensive experience in the oil fields of several states and has dabbled in the greasy stuff since he was a small boy.

Mr. Frederick Frizzell, who is field superintendent for the Ohio Oil Company and was thirty years in the oil producing business was also shown the Pratum oil. "That is a very fine grade of petroleum," said he after examining it carefully.

"I have seen just such oil pumped from some of the Pennsylvania wells," continued Mr. Frizzell. "Oils vary greatly as to color and composition in different fields. Of course, this is a very fine grade and in the market today would bring from $2.50 to $3 per barrel. If the state of Oregon can produce that quality of oil in paying quantities the people out there should go after it."

A good many of the oil men here want to be kept imformed on developments in the Oregon field should any new indications come to light. They are interested deeply and should they get substantial encouragement by the striking of a paying well, a Klondike rush of oil operators and speculators would head for the Willamette valley. "Wildcatters" would start strings of tools in every section from Portland to Eugene, with the result, that, in a few years, oil instead of hops might be king.

J. H.

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SWEET POTATO LORE.

A Case Where It Were Not Well Done If Too Quickly Done.

Sweet potatoes are no longer a luxury in our Northern markets, to be enjoyed only by the favored few. This is because of increased interest in their culture and of the facilities for shipping them long distances in cold weather without injury. Also because the process of canning them has been successfully introduced in several states. All this has led to great improvement in varieties also.

Although no longer a rare commodity in the Northern market, few there be who have sufficient knowledge of the tuber to cook it properly and the flavor is destroyed. To the old-time Southern negro cook we must still yield the palm, for who can equal her method of baking them imbedded in good ashes covered with hot coals, undergoing a slow transformation from one meal to another while the family, large and small, are at work or play in field or forest?

Uncle Sam, who of late is taking a very practical interest in the foods and culinary affairs of his people, gives up some valuable hints and recipes on the preparation of the sweet potato in a carefully prepared paper by D. M. Nesbit, published in Farmer's Bulletin No. 129. In this we are told that a sweet potato cooked quickly is not well cooked, time being an essential element specially if flavor is the object. Hence the fine flavor of the "sweets" eaten in the humble negro cabins of the South. "Experiments in baking kiln dried sweet potatoes have been made to compare the results of different periods of baking in palatability, and to note the loss of weight of different periods. Tubers of medium and uniform size were weighed before placing in the oven, and after baking twenty minutes, forty minutes and sixty minutes. Similar tubers were weighed and put in the oven after the others had baked forty minutes. All were baked through at the end of an hour. Contrary to a common supposition that long baking make a sweet potato dry, it was found that those which were baked only twenty minutes, notwithstanding a greater loss of weight in baking, and those which were baked a full hour in the oven were incomparably more palatable than the others. The average loss of weight was as follows:

"First twenty minutes, 5.3 per cent; seecond twenty minutes, 8.4 per cent; third twenty minutes 11.4 per cent.

"The baking was not continued longer than an hour in any case."

The following are some of the recipes given as the best methods for cooking these tubers:

To Boil or Steam.

Steaming develops and preserves the flavor better than boiling.

Boil or steam like white potatoes, and without breaking the skins. If boiled, pour off the water as soon as done, cover the pot with a cloth, and let it stand on the back part of the range a few minutes before serving.

Baked Sweets.

Baking is considered the best method of all. Bake as you would white potatoes only giving a longer time. When ready to serve place them on a hot potato cloth or napkin,, break open the skin in form of a cross, force the meat partly out, and place a bit of butter on top.

Browned Sweets.

Cut cold boiled or steamed sweet potatoes in quarter-inch slices; place in an earthen baking dish in layers with sugar and butter between and bake slowly until a light brown.

A Southern Dish.

Steam four medium-sized sweet potatoes until tender, or slice raw, and cook in boiling water ten minutes. Drain from the water and place a layer in the bottom of a baking dish. Sprinkle with sugar and place little pieces of butter over them. Fill the dish in this way, the sugar and butter being on top. Pour over them, nearly covering the potatoes, the water in which they were boiled, and place in a hot oven to bake for half an hour.

Sweet Potatoes a la Creole.

Slice thin, four raw sweet potatoes, place in a dish with bits of butter, sprinkle with half teaspoonful salt, quarter teaspoonful of pepper, and cover with milk. Wet a large tablespoonful bread crumbs with milk; add a beaten egg anad pour over the top, sit in the oven and bake slowly for an hour.

Sweet Potato, Caramel.

Boil two pounds of sweet potatoes until they can be peeled, then put them in a pan or dish, spread with bits of butter, then a little molasses over each one, set in the oven and slowly bake a light brown. The small potatoes are the best for this dish.

Sweet Potatoes, Broiled.

Steam, peel and cut in slices three-eighths of an inch thick; lay the slices in a double broiler, sprinkle with salt, brush with melted butter and broil over a slow fire.

Sweet Potato Glace.

Cut sweet potatoes in slices half an inch thick, wash in cold water and spread in a deep baking pan spread with butter, season lightly with grated nutmeg and salt, moisten with clear broth or water, cover and let simmer over a slow fire for three-quarters of an hour, turning the slices as they slaze on both sides. Serve with drawn butter.

Candied Sweet Potatoes.

Steam or boil and cut in halves, sweet potatoes of medium size, lay evenly in a braising pan, baste with a syrup of sugar and butter, sprinkle lightly with brown sugar and place in a hot oven to brown anad serve in the syrup.

Sweet Potato Pate.

One pint of boiled, mashed sweet potatoes, two eggs, two tablespoonfuls of flour and enough sweet milk to make it soft enough to stir well together. Drop in well-greased muffin rings and bake on a hot griddle, slowly, until brown on both sides. Split even and butter.

Sweet Potato Croquettes.

Take a pint of boiled mashed sweet potatoes. Beat the yolk of two eggs and add to the potatoes with two tablespoonfuls of cream, a bit of butter, half a teaspoonful salt, half a grated nutmeg, a teaspoonful of minced parsley and a few drops of onion juice. Mix thoroughly in a saucepan and stir the mixture over the fire until it leaves the sides of saucepan. Turn out to cool and then roll into small cylinders about three inches long and one inch in diameter. Dip in beaten egg, then roll in crumbs and fry in deep fat. Serve with clams, oyster or celery sauce.

Sweet Potato Puffs.

Steam and mash fine, six sweet potatoes, add tablespoonful sugar, two of butter and salt to taste. Beat until very light. Butter custard cups, fill very full, brush tops with white of egg and bake in a quick oven. Serve very hot.

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78c

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Prison Reform and The Legislature

Address by Member of the Prison Reform Association at Unitarian Conference, Salem.

The following paper by Mrs. Millie Trumble, of Portland, an active member of the State Prison Reform Association, was read at the Unitarian Conference recently held in Salem:

Before taking up the subject as it is given on the program, would it not be well to consider for a few moments, the history of institutions and of charitable effort, that we may understand a little more clearly, perhaps, the process of development through which has passed that particular bit of social activity which we call by the dignified word—philanthropy. I use this word philanthropy instead of the phrase charities anad correction because it has a softer sound. I like it better. The word charity is beautiful but it has almost lost its real meaning perverted as it has been into "almsgiving." While "correction" always brings to mind punishment, locks, and bars.

Whether there is as distinct a "line of cleavage" as we have been taught to believe exists between the two conditions signified in the phrase charities and correction, is coming to be a matter of doubt. We find men of science advocating the belief that a man is very often a criminal through causes over which he has absolutely no control—that while the welfare of society demands his restraint, that the place of his restraint should be in a hospital in which he shall be treated by experts as to his particular disease which has manifested itself in the breaking of society's prescribed laws.

So that when we apply ourselves to the study of the charities and correction problem, and study the condition from the charities point of view, and then look into another condition from the correction side of the problem, we find the line growing fainter and fainter. And in the earlier history of philanthropy, we find scarcely any line.

In the beginning of the Nineteenth century, the almshouse held all the "waifs and strays" of society. "The almshouse was" to quote an authority "the sole institutional representative of society's interest in its helpless numbers."

There were prisons—of a kind, but in the almshouse were found many whom today we classify as belonging to the correction side of the line.

As time passes, we find that people began to look with suspicion upon this indiscriminate herding together of the "helpless members," and, whatever the cause, though I feel sure that we may safely venture the assertion that the determining motive, was an economic one, we find that there began to be a sifting out, as it were and a closer division was made and the almshouse unfortunates were divided into the poor, the sick, the insane, the feeble minded, the dependent children, each in his own class. Today we send the sick poor to county or city hospital, the insane are no longer considered as things vile and dangerous to be chained in cells and fed on scraps, but are sent to asylums for special treatment, the feeble minded are provided for in schools peculiarly suited to their needs—that is, except in Oregon—and there has developed a penal system, which while far from perfect, is demanding the thought and attention, not only of penologists, but of our best physicians and teachers.

Although in many states the ideal is still unattained, and we find in the almshouses, the sick, the infirm, the feeble minded, public sentiment has reached that point in its development, when the wrong of such a method is unquestioned. And all through our country, the effort is being made to confine to the almshouse only those who properly belong there.

Many plans are offered as the solution of this problem. The best one seems to be that of state provision for the pauper class, that the state shall do for this class that which it assumes as its duty in providing asylums for the care of the insane, that the state shall establish in different sections homes or farms for the care of its poor, and the county from which the inmate is sent shall assume the expense of his maintenance. In this way there would be established a uniformity of administration that would operate to the advantage of the whole state. I have been unable to find anything bearing upon the system pursued in this state of later date than the report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of 1892; and the system set forth in that report is remarkable more for its complexity than for its uniformity.

In the consideration of the state care of almshouses, but this is true of all public institutions, there must always enter as one of the most important factors, the question of proper supervision—there should be trained men and women at the head. And there, too, the almshouse should be relieved of the approbrium it now carries. The ideal almshouse should not be a lesser kind of prison when the inmates are fed on the coarsest diet because it happens to be the cheapest, and maintained generally on the principle that "anything" is good enough for the poor house.

While it is true that many must end their days in the almshouse because of their grasshopper tendencies in their days of strength, there are so many who find themselves candidates for the almshouse when overtaken by old age. They have given their best endeavor to the community life and yet when the time for rest and quietness comes the only place of shelter open to them is a place of unhappy associations. Why do we never think of the word home in connection with the almshouse, and provide for it as for a home for our poor and aged and instead of using it to pay off the political debts of the successful candidate? Why do we not maintain it as an institution worthy the name of its owners? Are any of the people of Multnomah county proud of their ownership of the estate known as the County Poor Farm? And the state of affairs in that much-advertised institution is possible in any county maintaining such a place. And in that particular county, there is still the confusion of county hospital with almhouse, and it was not until eighteen months ago that the county superintendent of the poor was relieved of his supervision of the county hospital. Now the next step is to remove the county hospital from its location and make it an independent institution.

Reforms of this kind need but a healthy, hearty, public sentiment, based as this one is on sound economic principles.

I have dwelt this long on the subject of almshouses because it is a matter in which we can do much good individually. Our county institutions are near our homes, or within easy reach, not isolated as are our state institutions. They are open to investigation at close range, and it should be the duty of every church in the community to maintain a committee of visitors for each public institution—one whose members will take the time to study the conditions at the farm, consider the complaints of the inmates, and take such care generally of that particular duty that it would be impossible to maintain such a condition of affairs as existed at the Multnomah County Farm.

With a careful committee working in this way, bringing its reports to the church organization public sentiment would gain an irresistible force and the first step in advancement would be accomplished—advancement in all philanthropic endeavor is dependent on three forces—first humanitarian, then economic, and lastly and usually the most importanat, the political. And all through history we find the three forces, seemingly antagonistic, cooperating in the work for the betterment of the condition of the unfortunate.

Note the course of development in the treatment of the insane for example. First, the humanitarian, feeling that though the mind is wrecked, there should be a tenderer, more humane care for the body, through his pleading, open the way for the economists, who proves in cold figures that it is cheaper to give the insane intelligent care. Together they hammered away at the fortress of the politicians, the legislature. The walls finally gave way, and we find in every state of our Union, hospitals for the care and treatment of the insane.

After years of patient effort the politician is at last brought to see the necessity for this provision and is persuaded to vote public funds for the support of the asylums.

And today in Oregon, the humanitarian and economist are again at the front besieging the castle of the legislator, trying to convince him that it is more humane to provide special schools for the feeble minded than it is to give them space in the asylum for the insane. I use the expression advisedly—that is all this great state of Oregon with its wonderful resources, does for its feeble minded—gives them space in her asylum for the insane.

Other states believe that it is for the best interests of the state to seggregate his class of defectives, to give them employment according to their ability, furnish them with means of entertainment that their crippled minds can enjoy, in otaer words nearly every state in the Union except our own glorious Oregon believes that her duty is undone if she does not create, as far as possible, a new state for these feeble minded children of hers.

Other states have found that it pays to establish schools with specially trained teachers who understand how to turn the destructive tendencies of the poor feeble mind into constructive channels—that it pays to give them ground on which to plant gardens—where they can have chickens to take care of, cows to milk, and other states have found that among these children are those capable of being developed into helpful men and women, independent citizens they can never become, supervision of some kind is always necessary, but all this the humanitarian has proved is possible, he has proved long ago that these special schools are not experiments. The trained teacher with wonderful patience and skill tries first one thing and then another until at last, she touches the one sensitive nerve that responds intelligently to the special activity for which it is designed, and the humanitarian compares the happy, busy child, doing perhaps nothing more important than notting together all the small pieces of string and winding them into a ball, contrasts this child in the school, with the unhappy, restless, misunderstood child in the home, and feels that his work is not in vain.

The economist has proved, with the humanitarian, that while the child can never develop into an independent citizen he can become self supporting in more or less degree. That by removing from the home, the creature that has been a parasite the family can then take its proper place in the community, because in the home it seldom happens that the child is properly developed into a producer, and when the family is relieved of its care, the one who is sacrificed to the care of the child, can also give his best efforts where they will yield a greater return.

The economist has also proven that in segregating the feeble minded, he is also carrying out the law of the survival of the fittest, by preventing the perpetuation of the unfit as in most of the states women are received until they have passed the child bearing age. All this the humanitarian and the economist have presented to our legislature and at the last session, they opened the big outer gate of the fortress, just a little crack, and told their besiegers that a committee would be appointed to investigate the needs of the state in this direction.

Now there are two plans suggested, one to erect a separate cottage for the feeble minded on the grounds of the asylum for the insane. The other, is to use the building now occupied by the school for the deaf. In either case, the institution could be under the supervision of the superintendent of the asylum.

The present school for the deaf is located in a most undesirable place for its purpose—six miles from town and no car line, gives neither teachers nor pupils, opportunity to mingle with the outside world of people as often as they should. The deaf depend on their eyes for their education, and a necessary part of that education is neglected when their environment is not of the proper kind; with the reform school on one side, the asylum farm on the other, and convicts in their striped suits working on the road. What, think you are their impressions of the outside world? The state has available land, within easy distance of the car line, that could be used for a new school—a modern affair with all the equipment that is needed for manual training or for a trades school. I sincerely hope there will be opportunity for many of you to visit the school you will then understand the heavy odds, the teachers are working against. Neither is the building suitable for a girls' reform school. But it can be used for a school for our feeble minded, and this both the humanitarian and economist hope may be accomplished.

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CHILD SHOWS BRAVERY.

Saves Little Brother From Drowning in Mill-Race Near Fifteenth Street.

Last Friday forenoon about 11 o'clock Robert, the 26-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Williams, fell into the mill-race at the corner of Fifteenth and Ferry streets. His older brother, who is but 4 years old, rushed to the footwalk below and caught the dresses of his young brother floating down the stream. He was unable to lift the child from the water, but held him up the best he could, and called to his mother, who was at the time at her home, on the corner across the street, who came in time to pull the child out before being strangled.