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WHY NOT OIL FROM N. S. SHALE

The people of the United States are at this time much excited over the action of the Mexican government in their restrictions on the export of oil. If they really want more oil why not turn attention to the oil producing shales of Nova Scotia. In the Records opinion there is more oil in the shales of Nova Scotia, and far greater seams or deposits of shale than generally imagined. The following is from a U.S. source:—

In the face of expert estimates of an annual increased requirement of 52,000,000 barrels of fuel oil by the United States, Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane, in his last Annual Report, says:

"Sometime since I presented to a board of geologists, engineers and economists in this department this question:

"If in the next five years there should develop a new demand for petroleum over and above that now existing, which would amount to 100,000,000 barrels a year, where could such a supply be found, and what policy should be adopted to secure it?"

"The conclusions of this board may be summarized as follows:

"(1) Such an oil need could not be met from domestic sources of supply.

"(2) It could not be assured unless equal opportunities were given our nationals for commercial development of foreign oils.

"(3) Assurance of this oil supply therefore inevitably entails political as well as commercial competition with other nationals, as other nationals controlling foreign sources of supply have adopted policies that discriminate against, hinder, and even prevent our nationals entering foreign fields.

"(4) The encouragement of and effective assistance to our nationals in developing foreign fields is essential to securing the oil needed.

"(5) Commercial control by our nationals over large foreign sources of supply will be essential if the estimated requirements are to be assured.

"In addition we must look abroad for a supplemental supply and this may be secured through American enterprise if we do these things.

"(1) Assure American capital that if it goes into a foreign country and secures the right to drill for oil on a legal and fair basis (all of which must be shown to the State Department) that it will be protected against confiscation or discrimination. This should be a known published policy."

In the recently published statement by the Director of the United States Geological Survey, George Otis Smith, which is to be read at the February meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the following language occurs:—

"The position of the United States in regard to

oil can best be characterized as precarious. Using more than one-third of a billion barrels a year, we are drawing not only from the underground pools, but also from storage, and both of these supplies are limited. Last year the contribution direct from our wells was 356,000,000 barrels; or more than one-twentieth of the amount estimated by the survey geologists as the content of our underground reserve; we also drew from storage 24,000,000 barrels, or nearly one-fifth of what remains above ground. Even if there be no further increase in output due to increased demand, is not this a pace that will kill the industry?"

The calculated increase in the consumption of fuel oil, if available will necessitate increasing quantities either from the oil fields of the United States, or from imports. The 6,000,000 (more or less) motor vehicles now in use it is anticipated will be increased by over 1,000,000 annually.

THE U. S. REDS.

According to evidence gathered by Federal agents in connection with the recent round-up of reds, it was the plan of the radical agitators to develop the coal and steel strikes into a general strike and ultimately into a revolution to overthrow the Government. A definite program to expand the two labor disturbances for the purpose of blotting out every semblance of organized government is said to have been disclosed by information collected in many different parts of the country.

Officials indicated that the Communist and the Communist Labor parties, whose membership was largely represented in the ranks of those seized in the raids, were awaiting only an opportune moment to carry out among other classes of workers the same sort of agitation employed among the bituminous miners and steel workers.

During the last two weeks of the coal strike communist agitators were discovered to have penetrated practically every mining centre east of the Mississippi River. Evidence showed that in several instances where miners had voted to return to work, the communists had spread their propaganda of distrust of the Government to such an extent that few, if any, miners actually went back to their jobs.