

are being worked ; the latter was abandoned a quarter of a century ago, having been operated from 1860 to 1865. The existence of petroleum was known in those districts at an early period of their settlement, from its oozing out in springs or along the banks of streams ; but it was not until 1859 or 1860 that attempts to utilise it were made by sinking surface wells to a depth of 50 or 60 feet and allowing the petroleum to collect therein. It was not until 1861 that wells were bored into the rock at Oil Springs, and then some extraordinary results were obtained. In the winter of 1861-2 flowing wells were struck which produced in some cases thousands of barrels daily. At one time there were about twenty of these flowing wells, and hardly a pump was operated. But in the course of two years they ceased to flow, and thereafter the petroleum produced at Oil Springs was raised with pumps. In 1865 the Petrolia region was opened, and in one locality flowing wells were struck which yielded for several months at the rate of 400 barrels per day. But gradually the flow subsided, and since 1867 almost the whole of the petroleum at Oil Springs and Petrolia has been lifted with pumps, the yield gradually diminishing until at present it does not average more than half a barrel per day for each of the 3,000 wells in operation. The total yearly output of the Petrolia and Oil Springs territories is about 600,000 barrels of crude, almost all of which is now distilled at Petrolia. Formerly London was the centre of the oil-refining industry in Ontario, but experience has shown that the business can be more successfully managed where the crude oil is produced. Gold has been found in a number of localities in Ontario, but chiefly in the county of Hastings, in East Algoma and on Lake of the Woods. Numerous gold-bearing veins were discovered in Hastings more than a quarter of a century ago, and they were worked after a fashion for several years ; but although the gold is believed to exist in paying quantities the methods of extracting it from the ore only resulted in loss and failure. A large amount of capital has been sunk at the Deloro gold mills, near Marmora, where the chlorination process has been tried. During the present year a new