

ONTARIO'S NEW OIL FIELD.

During the past year there has been a notable revival of interest in oil and gas production in Ontario. The results of recent drilling in Dover township should give a great impetus to oil prospecting. It is probable that there will be more activity in Ontario oilfields this summer than has been evident for many years.

Canada's chief oil producing district is part of south-western Ontario, between Lake Huron and Lake Erie. For over half a century Lambton county has been a steady producer. The Tilbury district in Kent county, and the Onondaga district in Brant county have been prominent in recent years. Most of the oil has been obtained from the Onondaga formation, but the recent discovery in Dover township is in the Trenton limestone.

Not only is the new well a good producer; but it is an indication of what may be expected when the Trenton formation in Ontario is explored. In the Ohio-Indiana field, extending from north-western Ohio down in a south-westerly direction into Indiana, most of the oil comes from the upper part of the Trenton limestone. This horizon is geologically considerably below the horizon which has been Ontario's chief source of oil up to the present. To develop the Trenton deposits extensively it will be necessary to drill many deep wells.

Mr. Eugene Coste, one of Canada's most experienced and successful oil and gas authorities, after recently visiting the Dover fields, said in an interview to "The Globe": "We would deprecate the creation of any excitement regarding the Dover fields; but the indications are that they are permanent."

Leading economists have told us, what every producer of gold knows, that the production of gold during the war is not so profitable as the production of metals used in the manufacture of munitions. But can we afford to neglect production of the metal which the world has accepted as the standard of value? So long as the world recognizes gold as the standard, it will be desirable that the allied countries should have as large a percentage of it as possible. It would be foolish to divert energy from the production of materials necessary to carry on the war, in order to produce gold which a victorious enemy would be able to take from us; but on the other hand it seems unwise to discourage production of the metal which can be used so advantageously both during and after the war.

Canada is a country of great natural resources; but it is well to remember that these resources become valuable only when utilized. Every day that gold lies in the ground the country is losing money. It may be true that the mine-owner might profit as much or even more by delaying development until after the war, when supplies and labor may be cheaper; but that only means that the workman gets less for his labor and the manufacturer gets less for his goods, and we have denied ourselves the use of the gold. Is it not in the

best interests of the country to get our gold into circulation, as soon as possible?

DOMINION POWER BOARD.

The question of an adequate supply of fuel and power for all of Canada is one which has been brought sharply into view as a result of the acute fuel shortages during the past two winters. Certain phases of the situation demand and are receiving immediate action through the Fuel and Power Controllers and the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial research. The general problem of the fuel-power requirements of Canada is one that the end of the war will not solve. It is not merely a question of looking ahead for a year or two years or for whatever time the present conflict may last, but rather a matter of providing for all time to come.

Canada is recognized as one of the greatest water power and coal countries in the world. No people enjoy to a greater degree the benefit of cheap dependable hydro-electric power and none have had this benefit more universally adapted for municipal, industrial and domestic use. Canada's resources of coal are of tremendous extent, but are so located and of such a nature that special problems must be solved before they are made available to their maximum possible extent for domestic and manufacturing purposes. The future progress of the country depends very largely on the development and use of all the available fuel-power resources. To realize this, the Government has formed a Dominion Power Board comprising nine permanent officials of the various Departments who have become as a result of their regular departmental work, recognized authorities on various aspects of the fuel-power problems of the country. This Board has also been charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating all the investigation activities of the Government with regard to fuel power resources.

The Board has two main functions, (1) the collection of information, (i.e., Intelligence Service); and (2) to advise upon the development and use of fuel power resources of the country (i.e., an advisory body).

The Honorable Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, is Chairman of the Board. The members are: Arthur St. Laurent, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Public Works. C. N. Monsarrat, Consulting Engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals. W. J. Stewart, Consulting Engineer to the Department of External Affairs regarding International waters. John Murphy, Electrical Engineer to the Dominion Railway Commission. H. G. Acres, Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. O. Higman, Chief Electrical Engineer, Department of Inland Revenue. D. B. Dowling, Geologist, Department of Mines. B. F. Haanel, Chief Engineer, Fuel Testing Division, Department of Mines. J. B. Challies, Chief Engineer and Superintendent, Dominion Water Power Branch, Department of the Interior.

The Bennett-Martin Asbestos and Chrome Mines Company has begun construction of a mill. The mine in Ireland township was opened a year ago and good results have been obtained on development.

At the Jacobs asbestos mine, the milling method of mining is to be used. Underground haulage will be by electric locomotives. The old method of mining, still used, is open pit. Instead of cable derricks for hoisting, a shaft will be used in the new workings.