

springs at intervals and saturated layers of sandstone. At the eastern portion a number of borings have been made to depths of 800 to 1,000 feet, in nearly every one oil being found sometimes in large quantity. This field is now being exploited rapidly with every appearance of success.

Borings along the east coast at several points have also disclosed the fact that oil will be found in economic quantities at widely separated locations, one of these near the beach on the east coast, merely a trial hole, apparently having yielded according to the Government report at the rate of 60 to 70 barrels per day. More recent borings at Guayaguayare have made returns of oil at the rate of 12 to 16 barrels per hour. None of these wells are gushers, but the oil rises to near the surface and can be easily pumped.

These borings, made at somewhat widely separated points in the southern portion of the island, point conclusively to the assumption that oil fields of very great economic value exist in this area, and require only the judicious expenditure of capital to ensure satisfactory returns. In geological horizon the rocks are similar to those of the celebrated oil-wells of Baku in southern Russia and of Texas and California in the United States. They are of somewhat higher horizon than those of the Florence field in Colorado, which are apparently in Cretaceous rocks, but very similar to those of Burmah in the East Indies. They differ markedly from those of Canada and of the eastern United States, in which countries the oil is obtained from formations ranging downward from the Devonian to the Trenton limestone.

The Pitch lake of Trinidad, to which reference is often made, is a feature of great scientific interest. It has been visited by several scientists and various opinions have been expressed as to its origin, some contending that the surface especially in its central portion is soft and the asphalt hot, connecting its presence with volcanic phenomena. In point of fact the surface of the lake is hard and smooth, except for the presence of numerous fissures which traverse it, and are filled with water, and for the growth of trees which have evidently taken root in drifted areas of sand along such fissure lines in which seeds from the surrounding forest have lodged and taken root.

The lake itself is a vast body of asphalt, brownish-black in colour, with an area of nearly 140 acres. It is located near the west coast at Point La Brea at an elevation of about 100 feet above the sea level and at a distance of nearly one mile from the shore. In outline it is roughly circular, is deepest near the centre where a boring of 175 feet failed to touch the bottom, and gradually shoals towards the shores, having the character of a