

GAS AND OIL FIELDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

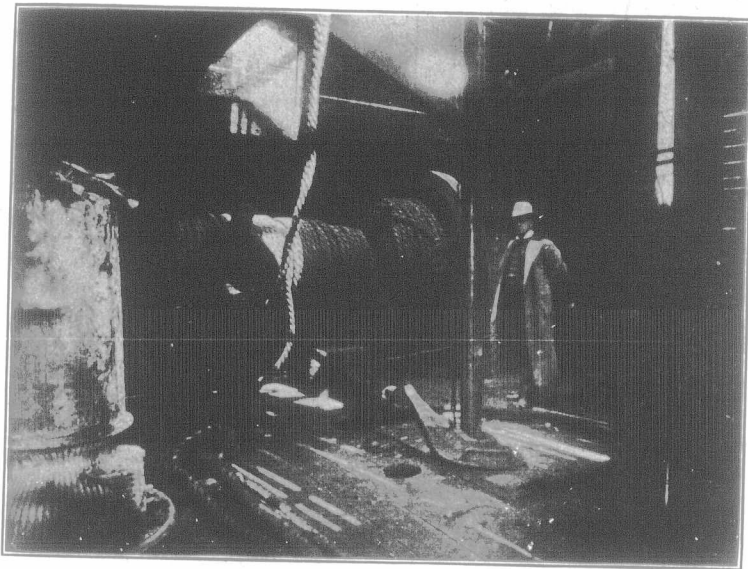
By MATHEW LODGE.

The existence of Gas and Oil in its natural state in the Province of New Brunswick has been known for over sixty years, and possibly the early French settlers on the Peninsula between the Petitecodiac and Memramcook Rivers may have lighted the seepages which occurred at various points in that part of the Country. Even though they never succeeded in igniting the bubbles that formed on top of the springs, still, the continual disturbance of the waters in many places must have been a source of wonderment to these pioneers. One might allow his imagination to wander into the years prior to the settlement of this part of the country by the White man, and see the Malicite and the Micmac prostrating himself before the fire which he had by some accident lighted and worshipping it as did the men of old in Asia worship the sacred fires of Persia. Or, possibly, our Malicite "Brother" was

both oil and gas sands were known to exist, and caused the workmen considerable trouble.

Little value was placed upon these discoveries in what we may now term "the early days," because the value of these products commercially was very little known. The miners were really after the same thing, only it was in solid form, and they called it "Coal"; and we may here add that the scientists of that day supported the contention that it was coal.

Would it be out of place to comment at this point upon the great strides that have been made in the scientific world in the last fifty years in respect to all minerals; and the writer may be pardoned for adding that the education of the scientist is not yet complete. May they continue in the good work of rediscovering and rectifying their former failures and mistakes.



Inside of an Oil Derrick in N.B. This Well was Drilled to Depth of 3,040 feet.

of a more practical turn of mind, and saw in this phenomenon an easier way to cook his bear steak than by gathering wood. And so we can imagine that the hill at Belliveau where one of these large springs still exists was a favourite camping ground.

We do know that the Seneca Indians of New York State were the first to know of the healing qualities of Petroleum, which they in a crude way recovered from the springs by placing their blankets on the water and squeezing out the oil so gathered.

This oil they not only used, themselves, for rheumatism and other afflictions, but sold it to the white man for the same purposes.

The first instance we find recorded of any practical use being made of the gas in the Province of New Brunswick was at Belliveau, the point above-mentioned, where, something like fifty years ago a Mr. Patrick sunk several shafts in this district in a search for Albertite, and tapped some of the upper gas sands. By placing a pipe into the wall of his shaft at the occurrence, he succeeded in obtaining a sufficient supply of gas to light his offices and workshops. So in the working of the Old Albert Mines,

The History of the Albert Mines has been so often written, that it is not necessary here to say more than that the Americans knew the value of the Albertite and used it in the manufacture of coal oil, wax candles, and also for the enriching of manufactured gas, and until the great discoveries from 1858 to 1865 of liquid oil in Pennsylvania, a large operation was carried on in what was known as the Albert Mines, in Albert County, New Brunswick.

Some far-seeing men in the United States and New Brunswick who knew of the oil and gas seepages at various points here recognized the same conditions existing as they found in Pennsylvania, and so as early as 1860, wells were drilled at St. Josephs, Memramcook and Dover on the Peninsula before mentioned, and with some degree of success; for in practically all their wells they discovered oil. Their methods, however, were crude; they did not go to any great depth, and so only tapped the upper sands, and obtained only small flows of oil. There is nothing recorded in regard to the gas, but we presume they encountered about the same pressure as that recorded later in the drillings of The New