

APPENDIX No. 1

great thickness of overlying rocks in this locality. At Edmonton and at Calgary you have to put a hole down a very great distance before you can hope to strike anything if there is an oil pool there.

Q. Has any government, provincial or Dominion, taken steps to bore for oil?—
A. No, not since the experiments by the survey that I spoke of.

Q. Has our parliament made any grant to assist boring for oil?—A. A grant was made to assist a company at Edmonton to put down a hole, and a grant to assist the Calgary Natural Gas Company at Calgary, but the Dominion government is not bonusing boring any longer.

Q. They are not doing anything to develop the oil industry?—A. Not in the way of bonusing, drilling, but they bonus production. We would like to see a well put down in the Athabaska country near the old well at Pelican rapids, but it is not considered advisable for the government to go into that sort of thing. In fact we have reached a stage now in the west where it seems to me private capital can very well undertake it. At all events if they continue that railway northward from Edmonton to Athabaska river there is no reason why that should not be tested by private companies. One or two of the big railway companies will likely do something.

Q. Is there any coal at Beaver river?—A. There is some lignite.

Q. Are there any other economic minerals?—A. Copper is known to occur eastward on the Copper Mine river. Gypsum occurs in Peace river, salt springs near the Athabaska river, iron ores have been found in several localities; gold has been found on many of the bars along Peace river; limestones, glass sands, clays and other such metallic substances occur. The oil companies in the west are advertising very extensively. It should be pointed out that they are prospecting companies, and if they are operating in the neighbourhood of Edmonton or Calgary, or through that section, it is going to be pretty expensive work drilling on account of the depth to be drilled and the caving of the shales. There has not yet been a hole put down that has been deep enough.

Q. Where is Pincher creek?—A. It is a little west of Macleod. It is just about where we think the anticline is. It is almost on the axis of the anticline, and that would be considered a favourable place to test for oil. The only difficulty there is that you have a great thickness of rock to go through. You would probably have to put the hole down very deep, and as the first holes are experimental, it is apt to be costly. They speak of the southwesterly country as the Pincher Creek district. Some of the drilling is done inside the boundary line at this point.

The committee then adjourned to the call of the chairman.

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, March 11, 1910.

The committee on the Mineral Resources of Canada met this day at 10.30 a.m., in Room No. 7.

PRESENT:—The Hon. Mr. Domville, Chairman, the Hon. Messrs. Comeau, Watson and Wood.

Mr. DOWLING appeared before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN.—Have you any information which would point to there being any oil-shales in the northwest other than those formations bearing tar which have already been discussed.