

\$14,600,000. As our crude petroleum production in 1916 amounted to about 7½ million gallons, valued at about \$392,300, it can be seen that Canada is dependent upon foreign sources for her supplies of petroleum and petroleum products. Ninety-nine per cent of the production of crude petroleum comes from Ontario, but the production is steadily declining in spite of efforts to enlarge the areas of producing fields, or to find new fields.

In considering the development of a substitute for petroleum for illumination, cooking, and for use in internal combustion engines, industrial alcohol, which is used to a considerable extent in Germany and Great Britain, has been suggested.

In 1916, Canadian imports of refined and illuminating oils amounted to over 8,080,107 gallons, valued at \$543,000; during the same year 18,322,000 gallons of gasoline, valued at \$3,625,000, were imported. If industrial alcohol could be produced economically in Canada so as to replace these products there would be a reduction of over \$4,000,000 worth of imports. It has been reported that, on account of the rising price of gasoline, many tractors have been rendered idle in the Prairie Provinces, thus reducing the acreage to be sown. The Director of the United States Bureau of Mines declares that the high prices may not only continue for some time but will undoubtedly reach higher levels before there is any permanent relief. He states that the United States Government will, during the next fiscal year, pay 31½ cents for its gasoline. He, therefore, concludes that if the United States, using such vast quantities, is compelled to pay this high price, the private consumer will have to pay much more. Furthermore, at the present rate of production, the known supply of crude oil in the United States, from which we obtain our present supply of gasoline, will be exhausted in 27 years.

**Possibility of
Establishing
Alcohol Industry**

In considering the establishment of an alcohol industry in Canada it is necessary to distinguish war conditions from those obtaining in normal times.

As alcohol is essential in the manufacture of smokeless powder, present prices are abnormally high. Normally, there is no great demand for alcohol for this special purpose and it would then have to compete with kerosene and similar products.

The raw materials used elsewhere than in Canada for the manufacture of industrial alcohol are potatoes, sugar beets, molasses and sawdust.

The present price and yield of potatoes in Canada are not such as would warrant the founding of a potato alcohol industry in Canada. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, states that, if