

parts of North America. According to the locality, its color varies from light yellow to orange and reddish brown to dark green and black; and in odor it varies quite as much as in color, some kinds having a pleasant and others a disagreeable smell. Some kinds contain considerable bitumen and asphaltum, which are closely allied substances in a solid or semi-solid form, others contain many of the paraffins. In some places it issues constantly from the earth, but usually it is necessary to bore for it.

#### Early History of Oil Wells.

In 1627 Pennsylvania petroleum was known to the Jesuit missionaries as a natural curiosity, and was spoken of in the eighteenth century as 'Seneca oil,' being named after the Seneca Indians, who kindled in it their religious ceremonies. In 1854 the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company was formed, but languished until 1858, when Colonel Drake and Mr. Bowditch resolved to sink wells at Titusville and were amply rewarded by obtaining from ten to twenty-five barrels a day. Adventurers quickly came to the district and by 1860 oil was known to exist beneath one hundred square miles of country and at a depth ranging from 70 to 500 feet. In 1861 the first large flowing well was struck and yielded about a thousand barrels a day. Between 1855 and 1870 the population of Titusville rose from 245 inhabitants to nearly 9,000.

#### North American Oil Regions.

The principal oil-bearing districts of North America are situated

along the western coast of California; in Northern Utah; in seven or eight places in Wyoming; in central and western Colorado; in New Mexico; in seven places in Texas; in south-eastern Kansas; in western Missouri; in Illinois; in northern Alabama; but principally in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Northern Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. The chain of oil bearing districts running due east and west through New York state crosses into Ontario near Buffalo. Petrolia is some 170 miles straight west of Buffalo.

#### Amount of Oil Produced Annually.

To give you some idea of the enormous quantity of petroleum pumped from the ground every year, I quote the official returns for 1899: Russia, 66,452,240 barrels; United States of America, 57,070,850 barrels, all others about 6,800,000 barrels. During the same year the United States refined 45,000,000 barrels of oil or over 81 per cent. of the raw product, whilst Russia refined 14,000,000 barrels, or about 21 per cent. of hers.

One year's supply of crude oil would fill a tank one mile square to a depth of fifty feet. How would you like to own it? Up to date, the amount of petroleum obtained in the great republic to the south of us would fill a reservoir the size of the city of Buffalo to a depth of over a thousand feet, or would equal the volume of water flowing over Niagara Falls every two hours.

Some of the Uses of Petroleum.