

To give an idea of the cost of drilling, a fair average price down to a depth of 850 feet would be about 2 dollars per foot, including casing, and a completed well in all respects.

The great pressure of the gas of the wells is reduced by regulators down to 4 or 5 ozs. per square inch at the consuming point. Unfortunately, the gas is being rapidly exhausted, especially in the eastern field which supplies the large city of Buffalo, in the United States, and the pressure is getting less and less, so that it has become necessary to use pumps to force the gas, instead of being obliged to call into play considerable ingenuity to control it.

This natural gas is an object lesson of the different policies which animate the two Anglo-Saxon races of the North American continent.

The Ontario gas-field is being exhausted for the benefit of the people of New York State, without let, tax, or hindrance on the part of the people of Canada, while a washerwoman, and much less a miner, is not allowed to cross the international line and seek work in the United States while domiciled in Canada.

Petroleum.

Petroleum is found in two areas in the western part of the peninsula of Ontario in the county of Lambton. The rock which furnishes the oil is the Corniferous limestone (Devonian) which is very fossiliferous. The oil is struck at between 465 and 475 feet from the surface in a porous dolomitic limestone, which is from 1 to 6 feet thick, brown in colour (probably from the petroleum), and very soft. The holes are drilled $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, and where casing is put down it is rimmed out $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch more, the casing being $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches inside and $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in outside diameter. The hole is put down in about five or six days, and costs, for drilling, from 150 to 160 dols. Wooden rods are used as drill-rods, in place of the rope used in the United States oil-districts, a steel drill $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 25 to 30 feet long being attached to the lowest section. These Petrolea drillers are very expert, and are called for all over the world, much work being done by them in Europe, Asia, and Australia. The oil was at first free-flowing, but in this field it is now pumped and run into tanks. The crude-oil is distilled in large sheet-iron retorts, and the various products are:—Gasoline, naphtha, illuminating-oil, intermediate and wool oils, and, lastly, lubricating-oils; while an incrustation of carbonaceous matter or coke, which makes a good fuel, is left in the retort.

All the grades of distillation are divided at will, either by stopping the process at various stages or by subsequent re-distillation and treatment