

ONTARIO'S PETROLEUM WELLS.

Decline in Oil Yield—Statement of Production— Statistics for Three Years.

The petroleum wells of Ontario last year yielded 14,723,105 Imperial gallons of oil, valued at \$559,478. The quantity given is that returned to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, for purposes of the Dominion Government bounty of 1½ cents per Imperial gallon. This is a decrease of 3,756,442 gallons, as compared with the production of 1908, or 25 per cent.

The decline in the oil yield continues to manifest itself in the records of production. There was a diminution in the output of every one of the fields, but the rate of decline in the newer districts of Tilbury and Romney was greater than in the older districts of Petrolea and Oil Springs. Already the production has sunk to less than one-half of what it was fifteen years ago, and if the falling-off is maintained the supply of domestic petroleum will tend to become relatively insignificant, unless new reservoirs are opened up. Even now more crude oil is imported into the country than is produced here. The fields of Lambton county have already had great longevity, and are unique among the oil-producing regions of the world, because of the small individual production of the wells, which is only a few gallons a day, and of the economy with which they are operated. Being of shallow depth, many wells may be worked by one engine on the "jerker" system, and so give a profit, which if not large is constant.

Statement of Production.

Mr. W. J. Harvey, supervisor of crude petroleum bounties for the Dominion Government, furnishes a statement of the production in 1908 and 1909:—

Field.	1908. bbl.	1909. bbl.
Lambton	265,368	243,123
Tilbury and Romney	201,283	124,003
Bothwell	39,228	38,092
Leamington	9,334	5,929
Dutton	13,743	9,513
Thamesville
Comber
Total	528,959	420,660

As will be seen from the above statistics, the reduction in the yield of the respective fields was as follows: Lambton, 22,245 bbl.; Tilbury and Romney, 77,280 bbl.; Bothwell, 1,136 bbl.; Leamington, 3,405 bbl., and Dutton, 4,230 bbl.

Price of Crude Fluctuates.

The average price for Petrolea crude during the year was about \$1.33½ per bbl. It opened in January at \$1.44 per bbl., at which figure it remained until May 4th, when it dropped to \$1.39. On May 11th it fell again to \$1.34, on June 25th to \$1.29, on July 16th to \$1.26, and on October 21st to \$1.24, at which it closed the year. The price of Tilbury crude is on a parity with that of Petrolea, but freight by rail to Sarnia from the shipping points must be allowed for. At the beginning of the year the price at Tilbury was \$1.27 per bbl. It dropped on May 4th to \$1.22, on May 11th to \$1.17, on June 25th to \$1.12, on July 16th to \$1.09, and on October 21st to \$1.07, at which figure it remained until the end of the year. The average for Tilbury oil for the

twelve months was perhaps \$1.16 per bbl. These prices are irrespective of the Dominion Government.

The refineries, of which there are two in Ontario, the Imperial Oil Company's at Sarnia, and the Canadian Oil Company's at Petrolea, distilled a total of 35,530,918 gallons of crude last year. Of this, 16,015,527 gallons, or 45 per cent., was domestic, and 19,515,391 gallons imported.

Statistics for Three Years.

The following statistics covering three years ending with 1909, show the quantity of crude oil distilled annually and quantities and value of the several products. It will be seen how the production of domestic crude has steadily gone down during the period covered by the table with the exception of 1907, the first full year for the Tilbury-Romney field:—

The product is shipped entirely to the United States, where it is used in the manufacture of porcelain goods and enamelled ware. The superior qualities of the Ontario feldspar enable it to compete with the product of the United States quarries, and to obtain a price which will pay for the long haul to the potteries of Newark, N.J., and East Liverpool, Ohio. So far, the attempts made to export feldspar to England have not been successful, ocean freights being so uncertain as to make it difficult to quote prices delivered.

SOCIETY NOTES.

The Canadian Clay Products.—The annual convention of the Canadian Clay Products Manufacturers' Association will be held in Toronto, on December 14, 15 and 16. The following is the official programme: On Wednesday morning, December 14, a meeting of the executive committee will be held at ten o'clock. At 2.30 addresses of welcome will be given by representatives of the Mayor and the local clay-working manufacturers. Replies to the addresses will be made by President McCredie and Vice-President Miner. Thursday morning will be devoted to the problems connected with drain tile making and to hollow ware. Mr. Geo. E. Bigelow, an Ohio tile manufacturer, will address the convention. Prof. W. H. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, will discuss the tile drainage problem as it was developing in Ontario. In the afternoon attention will be devoted chiefly to "Kilns" and "Power Problems." Several speakers have been invited to speak on "Kilns." John W. Ball, of Toronto, will give practical talks on kiln troubles, while Mr. Broadwell, of Kingsville, and Mr. Chas. A. Millar, of the Standard Brick Company, Limited, has consented to describe the Hydro-Electric power installation, which is entirely electrical, and to emphasize its advantages. On Friday morning the first hour and a half will be devoted to discussing, "Which Pays the Better: Piece Work or Day Work." Mr. S. J. Fox, M.P.P., has been invited to open this discussion, and Messrs. W. N. Freeborn, of Brantford, and J. S. McConnell, of the Milton Pressed Brick Company, have agreed to speak on the subject. From 11.30 to 1 o'clock on Friday will be devoted to the election of officers for the ensuing year and to the choice of convention centre for the following year.

Output of Wells.

Schedule.		1905.	1907.	1909.
Crude produced	Imp. gal.	22,131,658	27,621,851	14,723,105
Crude distilled	"	33,821,998	34,961,700	35,530,918
Value crude produced	\$	898,545	1,049,631	559,478
Value distilled products	"	2,196,678	2,568,464	2,501,384
Illuminating oil	Imp. gal.	16,433,588	18,319,233	17,902,254
Lubricating oil	"	3,402,977	3,931,767	3,856,778
Benzine and naphtha	"	2,827,971	4,132,239	3,930,601
Gas and fuel oils and tar	"	5,788,251	5,632,608	4,687,588
Paraffin wax and candles	lb.	4,077,610	5,132,394	7,092,278
Workmen employed	No.	469	435	436
Wages paid	\$	280,701	265,316	261,014