

NATURAL GAS IN ONTARIO.

Increase in Production—Legislation to Prevent Waste—List of Gas-producing Concerns.

The production of natural gas in Ontario has much increased of late years. In value it amounted in 1909 to \$1,188,179, an increase over the yield of 1908 of \$199,563, and being the largest output yet recorded. For the last four years the quantity produced has been as follows: In 1906, 2,534,200 thousand cubic feet; in 1907, 4,155,900 thousand; in 1908, 4,483,000 thousand; and in 1909 about 5,388,000 thousand cubic feet.

The output comes from three fields, namely; Welland county, Haldimand and Norfolk counties, and the counties of Essex and Kent. The Haldimand-Norfolk field is the largest producer. The people of these districts, and of the cities, towns and villages outside of the actual gas area to which it is piped, enjoy a great boon in the use of natural gas for fuel purposes. It is an ideal fuel. It is cleanly, leaving no ashes and producing no smoke; it can be turned on when wanted and turned off when its work is done, thus eliminating waste entirely to the careful user; and it is much cheaper than either coal or wood.

The possession of natural gas is an important advantage for the householder as well as to the manufacturer, though it seems a pity that a fuel so suitable for domestic use could not be preserved for that purpose only; and as the quantity, no matter how large it may be, is in any field limited, it is naturally an object of prime importance to the people in that field to conserve the supply to the utmost.

Act Passed to Prevent Waste.

To assist in doing so, the Legislature in 1908 passed an Act to prevent the wasting of natural gas and to provide for the plugging of all abandoned wells, by which power was conferred upon inspectors appointed under the Act to enforce the stoppage of waste. The Supplementary Revenue Act, 1907, also contained provisions which were even more effective than those of the above-mentioned Act, and the enforcement of these laws has reduced the waste of gas to a minimum. Probably not less than 200,000 people in Ontario are now using natural gas, and extensions of pipe systems, etc., are now in progress, which will result in a large increase in this number.

From the Haldimand-Norfolk field gas is piped to Hamilton, Dundas, Galt, Brantford and other places; the Welland field supplies St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Bridgeburg and other towns and villages; and from the Kent-Essex field people in Chatham, Leamington, Blenheim and elsewhere are supplied. Franchises have been obtained by the Volcanic Gas and Oil Company from the city of Windsor and the towns of Walkerville and Sandwich, and gas is to be delivered in these places from the Kent field by 1st December, 1910.

List of Gas-Producing Concerns.

The principal gas-producing concerns are the following: In Welland, Provincial Natural Gas and Fuel Company, Buffalo, N.Y.; United Gas Companies, St. Catharines; Port Colborne-Welland Natural Gas and Oil Company, Port Colborne; Welland County Lime Works, Port Colborne; Bertie Natural Gas Company, Ridgeway; Ontario Iron and Steel Company, Welland; Sterling Natural Gas Company, Port Colborne; Empire Limestone Company, Buffalo, N.Y.; Industrial Natural Gas Company, Welland; in the Haldimand-Norfolk field: Dominion Natural Gas Company, Pittsburg, Penn.; Producers' Natural Gas Company, Hamilton; Norfolk Gas Company, Port Dover; Selkirk Gas and Oil Company, Selkirk; Dunnville Gas Development Company, Dunnville; and in the Essex-Kent field: Volcanic Oil and Gas Company, Niagara Falls; Beaver Gas and Oil Company, Leamington; Maple City Oil and Gas Company, Chatham; and Leamington Oil Company, Detroit, Mich.

The Essex-Kent and Haldimand-Norfolk gas fields are proven to the edge of Lake Erie in both cases, and a natural inference was that the gas-bearing territory would be found to extend under the waters of that lake. A number of leases have been granted by the Crown authorizing the sinking of wells for gas and oil on parts of the lake bed in front of Rainham, Walpole, Charlotteville, Romney, Tilbury East and Woodhouse townships. Good wells have been found on several of these leases and a corresponding addition has been made to the gas-yielding area.

INSURANCE OF WORKMEN.

Statistics of Europe Reveal Some Interesting Facts—Norway Has a Compulsory System.

In most of the States of Europe, with the exception of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Norway and Luxemburg, such insurance is not compulsory, but is a matter of mutual understanding between employer and employed. The following table shows the comparative amount of insurance paid out by the sick funds (Krankenkassen), and also gives the number of insured:

Country.	Population.	Number of insured according to percentage of population.	
			Per cent.
Germany	63 millions	13.2 millions	26.9
Austria	27.8 "	3.4 "	11.2
Hungary	21 "	0.8 "	3.8
Luxemburg	2,510,000	36,079 "	14.4
Norway	2,410,000	440,000	18.3
Italy	33 millions	1 million	3.3
France	39 "	4.1 "	10.5
Belgium	7.4 "	0.42 "	5.6
Great Britain....	43.5 "	6.1 "	14.0
Sweden	6.4 "	0.585 "	10.8
Finland	3 "	44,859 "	1.5
Netherlands	5.8 "	0.6 "	10.3
Denmark	2.7 "	0.626 "	23.1

	Amounts paid in Millions per Insured.	
	millions of marks.	
Germany	35.2	26.6
Austria	55.1	18.1
Hungary	15.8	19.2
Luxemburg	1.2	33.5
Norway	—	—
Italy	—	7.5
France	—	8.5
Belgium	3.8	9
Great Britain	—	—
Sweden	—	10.77
Finland	—	9.61
Netherlands	—	6
Denmark	—	8.07

Employer Pays One-Third.

In Germany the employer pays one-third and the employee two-thirds of the fees. Norway has a compulsory system for all branches of industry up to salaries of M. 1,515 for cities, and up to M. 1,350 for the country districts. The system was introduced last year. The fees are borne for the greater part by the workmen themselves (six-tenths), two-tenths by the State, one-tenth by the local authorities, and only one-tenth by the employer. Statistics compiled by the Imperial Statistical Office on Accident Assurance are not nearly as complete as the foregoing. Accident insurance in Germany comprises all workmen and persons employed in trade and agriculture drawing a salary up to M. 3,000. Of Germany's sixty-three millions, in the year 1908, 23,700,000 persons, or 37 per cent., were enjoying the benefits of accident insurance. Contributions of the Federations of Labor (Berufsgenossenschaften) amounted to M. 181,600,000, borne, too, by the employers.

Expense of Accident Insurance.

In Austria, where the employer bears most of the expense of accident insurance, 11 per cent., or 3,800,000 persons, come under the insurance Act, averaging M. 7.70 per capita. The workman pays 10 per cent. In Italy, with a population of thirty-three millions, 1,800,000, or 6.1 per cent., are insured.

The average amount paid by the employer is M. 6.50. In France the employers contributed in 1906 M. 65,400,000. In Luxemburg, of 250,000 inhabitants, 36,701 are insured against accidents, the employers paying M. 1,070,000, or for each person insured M. 29.11.

Sickness and old age insurance is now being introduced into France, all workmen and employees earning up to M. 2,400 being beneficiaries, employer and employed paying each one-half.

In Germany 24.1 per cent. of all the population are insured against sickness and old age, the fees paid amounting to M. 184,400,000, or for each person insured the sum of M. 12.