

these annual statistics. The Company have had much to contend with in the past, not the least drawback being the unreliable character of some of the persons in charge of the drilling.

Last season but one hole was put down to a depth sufficient to tap the petroliferous strata. When it reached 1,204 feet, a good flow of oil was encountered, which is considered the best yet met with. Two other holes reached depths of about 600 feet, and though no oil was struck, the abundance of gas given off was considered by the superintendent of the drilling operations undoubted evidence of oil at lower depths.

None of the recently drilled holes have been torpedoed. An attempt to explode the deep hole of the preceding year, which reached 2,160 feet, failed for some reason, yet this latter was found to contain 900 feet of oil last fall.

Up to date six holes have been completed and two partly drilled. All with the exception of the latter are oil producers. What the actual yield per well would amount to, nothing but continuous pumping for at least a couple of months can fully determine.

Notwithstanding the many drawbacks the Petroleum Co. have had to contend with in the past the results to date are not at all discouraging. It was estimated by Mr. Powell, the experienced superintendent, during the latter part of the past season, that the last hole put down would average five barrels a day, and he believed, were all the completed wells exploded and put to pumping, they would yield fully thirty (30) barrels.

In view of the rapidly increasing use of petroleum and its products, the outlook for the Newfoundland Petroleum Co. is wearing a much brighter aspect, and it is now considered that the establishment of a refinery is fully warranted.

Fifty barrels of this petroleum were sent to Scotland towards the end of the year to be distributed amongst two or three refineries and thoroughly tested. The results, which is looked forward to with much interest by all concerned, has not yet been received.

Nothing has been done in the way of developing our chromite deposits of late years, but the Humber Consolidated Mining Company has commenced the construction of a tramway from the main line of railway near George's Lake to their chromite mine at Benoit Brook, a distance of about 16 miles. It is their intention