

THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

By many it is asserted that petroleum exists in this country, and that experimental or test wells should be sunk on the Island as well as on the Mainland. The peninsula known as Western Canada, comprising the counties of Lambton, Bothwell, and Essex is known to contain vast pockets of this precious fluid, and the oil industry in Lambton especially is a considerable one. The quality of the crude is not so good nor so well adapted to making a poor burning oil as is the Pennsylvania crude, it being much lighter in gravity and easier distilled, and treated ere being given to consumers. It is to be hoped some one will be so fortunate as to "strike ile" ere long in some convenient spot for shipment on either the Island or Mainland. The following statistics show the vast magnitude of the business in the United States:

There are 20,000 producing oil wells in Pennsylvania, yielding at present 60,000 barrels of oil a day.

It requires 5,000 miles of pipe line and 1,600 iron tanks of an average capacity of 25,000 barrels each to transport and store the oil and surplus stocks.

There are now nearly 38,000,000 barrels of oil stored in the region in tanks. This oil would make a lake more than one mile square and ten feet deep. The money actually invested in petroleum production since 1860 is estimated to be more than \$425,000,000, of which \$200,000,000 was capital from New York City. Since 1880 more than \$12,000,000 has been used in building iron tanks, and nearly as much in pipe lines, all by one corporation. The tanks cost on an average \$8,000 each. A 35,000 barrel tank is ninety feet in diameter and twenty-eight feet high. There is a lateral pressure of 6,000 pounds on each square inch of a tank of this size when full of oil. There is 100 tons of iron used in constructing one. The speculative transactions in petroleum represent more than \$400,000,000 annually. The lowest price crude petroleum ever brought was ten cents a barrel, in 1861. In 1859, when there was only one well in existence, Col. Drake's Pioneer, at Titusville, the price was \$24 a barrel. Besides the 5,000 miles of pipe line in use in the oil regions there are in operation 1,200 miles of trunk pipe lines connecting the region with Cleveland, Pittsburg, Buffalo and New York, and lines building to Philadelphia and Baltimore. In the line between Olean and New York, 16,000 barrels of oil are transported daily. These lines are all the property of the Standard Oil Company, except one between Bradford and Williamsport, Pa. The Standard employs 100,000 men. The product of its refineries requires the making of 25,000 barrels of forty gallons each, and 100,000 tin cans, holding five gallons each, every day. The first American petroleum ever exported was in 1862. Charles Lockart, of Pittsburg, sent nearly 600,000

gallons to Europe in that year and sold it for \$2,000 less than the cost of transportation. In 1883 nearly 400,000,000 gallons were exported, for which \$ 0,-000,000 were returned to this country.

MONEY IN SHEEP GROWING.

Of the many pursuits that could be profitably followed in this Province, is that of sheep growing, and we are persuaded that if judiciously followed, no other such occupation would pay so well, amount of labour and capital invested taken into consideration. We are gratified to learn that there are already a few who have taken the matter in hand to be thoroughly tested. Between the Island of Vancouver and the mainland, there are numerous small islands, admirably adapted for sheep husbandry. These possess every requisite, such as fresh water, abundance of grass amongst the underbrush, and no fear of destruction from wild animals, as the islands can speedily be cleared of all such vermin. Then there are vast valleys and mountain slopes in the interior whereon thousands could be fed. Hitherto attention has been given entirely to the cattle business, which in some instances has been a lucrative one. Notwithstanding this, sheep growing will yield larger returns to men of small means than will cattle. Let a person with a capital of say \$5,000, invest this amount in sheep, procure the proper appliances for their safe keeping, and very soon he will become a man of considerable capital—a nabob in fact, if he gives strict attention to his business, while that sum invested in cattle would appear but a mite in the cattle growing problem.

To succeed with sheep, the best grades for both wool and mutton must be procured, for it will not do to depend on either of these products exclusively. A pound of mutton costs no more to grow than a pound of beef. There is no fleece to be sheared from the back of a bullock, while from the sheep there is, and even if the wool should sell at a low rate, it is still in excess of the profit on beef. Our stockmen should be able to raise both mutton and wool cheaper than can be done in the East. Grazing lands here are cheap, in the east they range from \$25 to \$100 per acre. The expense of herding is otherwise less while there is scarcely any loss on account of destruction by useless curs of dogs.

At present the Victoria market is supplied almost entirely from either Washington Territory or Oregon. If the industry was started at once in the interior, considerable stock would be on hand by the time the railway was completed. In fact this market could now be fed from that section in the mutton as well as beef line. A practical sheep grower says:

Not a sheep should be encouraged to grow that will not clip from seven to twelve pounds of wool. And not a wether should be bred whose carcass will not tip the scale beam at 100 pounds. Then if a fat