

There is Oil in Northern Alberta

If you are interested in The California-Alberta Oil Co. read this evidence

Against --- We have W. A. Fraser, author and geological expert (?), who has been thus put forward as an eminent authority by one of the local papers.

Who W. A. Fraser is, and Why He Condemns These Cheap Imitations of Real Oil Companies.

W. A. Fraser, geological expert and author, who is frequently quoted in connection with the notation of these "oil" companies in Alberta, and who condemns them out of hand, has had thirty years' experience in the oil fields of the world. On behalf of the British Government, Mr. Fraser explored the oil fields of India, and he was employed by the Canadian Government to explore and report upon the possibilities of both Northern and Southern Alberta in connection with the production of petroleum.

The first experts to survey the Alberta field were Dr. G. M. Dawson of the Geological Survey, and Mr. W. A. Fraser, the two gentlemen working together on behalf of the Canadian Government. It therefore can be safely concluded that when Mr. Fraser condemns the present exploitation, he knows what he is talking about, and his pronouncement is authoritative.

Lots of "Tar," But Little Oil.

Speaking of the Northern Alberta fields, in which is located land of the California Alberta Oil Company, W. A. Fraser says: "Northern Alberta produces maltha, a pitch-like substance, which does not contain over 3 to 5 per cent. of burning oil, and gas galore. I believe it to be the largest natural gas reservoir in the world. Both this gas and the presence of maltha will effectively block any attempts to bore to depth in this country."

Turned It Down as No Good.

"I explored the entire southern field on behalf of a syndicate of leading Canadian capitalists. I was to have a one-third interest for my work, but after examining it thoroughly I turned it down, and so did the syndicate of capitalists upon my advice."—W. A. Fraser.

But authors were ever generous.

We have such great men as Professor Bell, Dr. George M. Dawson, Elihu Stewart, For---W. J. Bredin, Richard George McConnell, and Henry Anthony Conroy.

Reports of the Select Committee of the Senate, Sessions 1887 and 1888, issued by Department Interior.

Professor Bell, B.A.Sc., M.D., C.M., F.R.S.C., etc., etc., Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, Page 19, speaking of the Athabasca River and Athabasca District, stated before the committee, appointed by the Senate, that "PROBABLY THE GREATEST FIELD FOR PETROLEUM IN THE WORLD IS THE ATHABASCA COUNTRY."

Here is Partner's Statement.

Evidence of Dr. George M. Dawson, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of Canada (same report as above), Page 68: Explained that he had a personal acquaintance with the Athabasca from the landing to the river, and stated that "the pitch found along the Athabasca may probably be of considerable value in the future, BUT IN THE MEANTIME WAS MOST IMPORTANTLY AN EXTENSIVE DEPOSIT OF PETROLEUM existing in the country in which it occurred. THE QUANTITY APPEARED TO BE PRACTICALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE."

Note this evidence shows that from Edmonton north to Fort McMurray and west to Peace River is one

Evidence of Mr. Elihu Stewart, of the City of Ottawa, at the time Superintendent of Forestry for the Dominion Government, Since Retired From the Public Service to Engage in Private Business.

Pages 49 and 50.

There are evidences of tar and bitumen all the way down to the Arctic Sea, so he was told. It is a very extensive deposit. THERE IS MORE OF LESS EVIDENCE OF PETROLEUM ALL THE WAY ALONG THE TAR SAND AREA IS OF ENORMOUS EXTENT.

THE TAR SANDS EVIDENCE AN UPWELLING OF PETROLEUM TO THE SURFACE UNEQUALLED ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Indications of the presence of oil in the district is not confined to the tar sands, as on Peace River and the Lesser Slave Lake impassable bitumen was found in a number of places lining the Peace River, small quantities of tar are brought to the surface by a spring.

From Winnipeg Free Press, Jan. 12, 1910, also Published in the Globe of Jan. 12.

Winnipeg business men: Messrs. F. W. Hutchings, W. A. Campbell, John Galt, Thomas Kelly, R. A. Fraser, Senator T. G. Davis, John Macbray, W. R. Mullock, K.C., G. F. Carruthers and W. C. Lestkov. The Americans present at a gathering which may prove historic were: G. H. Roth, a member of the Marshalltown, Iowa, independent oil company in the United States; Robt. Jontz, president of the Drexel National Bank, Chicago, Illinois; Senator Cox, of the United States Senate; President Walker of the First National Bank, North Dakota; James W. Taylor, a large capitalist and financier of Minneapolis, and several others whose names were not announced. The meeting was held for the purpose of electing officers in the company and considering plans for the incorporation of the firm.

It was decided that the company should seek incorporation under the Dominion laws, and an application will be made at once to the federal government for a charter. The company will have an initial capital of \$5,000,000 and will have headquarters in Winnipeg. The firm, which is to be incorporated under the name of the Athabasca Oil and Asphalt Company, is being organized for the purpose of developing oil and asphalt fields in the district of Athabasca.

A. Von Hammerstein, to whose energy and perseverance the discovery of the asphalt and oil tracts was due, was present at the gathering and of what he had found in the Athabasca district, and while there discovered vast areas of petroleum lands. Mr. Von Hammerstein has succeeded in finding fourteen oil wells, in which oil abundance has been found.

The Dominion Government last year, acting under the laws as to present existing, sent experts to the districts to verify Mr. Von Hammerstein's discoveries, and the report presented bears out in every respect his contention, and eight of the wells are certified to produce oil of a value as to be commercially valuable.

The new company has taken over the work done by Mr. Von Hammerstein, and has decided to give him a sum, said to be one million dollars, for his previous services.

Mr. Von Hammerstein retains a large interest in the new concern.

To Develop the Oil Fields of Athabasca

Company of Canadian and United States Capitalists Organized.

CAPITAL OF FIVE MILLIONS.

Have Some Most Promising Petroleum Wells and Asphalt Deposits in Far North.

Winnipeg Free Press, Jan. 12, 1910.

A highly important step towards the development of Canada's great hinterland was taken on Saturday, when the Athabasca Oil and Asphalt Company was organized at a meeting held at the Royal Alexandra Hotel. Many of the leading capitalists of Canada and the United States were present, or will be associated with the company, which will be capitalized at five million dollars, and which will concentrate its efforts in the operation of the oil fields in the vicinity of Fort McMurray, 400 miles north of Edmonton, which are believed to be the richest in America.

Amongst those present at the meeting were the following representative

Plan of Development.

The company's main offices are at Fort McMurray, some 400 miles from Edmonton. The Waterways and Athabasca Railway is now being built into the district, and it is expected this road will be completed in three years. In the meanwhile the new concern will proceed to erect refineries and the other necessary buildings, and as soon as the railway is in operation to export the residues and asphalt. Maltha will be produced in large quantities and shipped east, as well as the finest grade of lubricating oil, and the company hope to be in the market with a product for pavement which will compete with the products now being shipped into the country from Trinidad and Mexico. Active operations will be commenced at once.

The gathering of financial men which met yesterday at the Royal Alexandra Hotel is said to have been the strongest that has ever met together in western Canada, and a revolution in the lighting and paving of the cities and towns in the west is expected to result.

This news was also published in The Globe of Jan. 12.

OIL IN NORTH ALBERTA OPINIONS OF EXPERTS

Mr. Fraser's Opinion Upset by Views of Eminent Geologists.

Oil is in the air.

It bids fair to get into literature when W. A. Fraser, author and stylist, puts his pen to paper as an oil expert.

Torontonians who never thought of oil before are now discussing the momentous question: "Is there oil in Northern Alberta?"

Verily oil is in the air.

It is also in Northern Alberta, altho W. A. Fraser, the well-known author of "The Thorolite" and not so well-known oil expert, thinks differently. He bored for oil in Northern Alberta in the '90's and didn't find it. There fore he concludes it is not there. This is his opinion.

But other men more prominent in geology and business, the less prominent in literature, think differently. Most men would take W. A. Fraser's opinion regarding a split infinitive.

From the Toronto Sunday World of Jan. 30, 1910.

but his theories re-oil are of the '90 vintage. He talks like a disappointed dilettante.

It is a courageous man who will pit his opinion against that of Professor Bell.

But Mr. Fraser, a veritable Capt. Kettle in literature and mining, does not fear to break a lance with Dr. Dawson, even as he smashes a spear with Professor Bell.

Again in 1890 R. J. McConnell of the Geological Survey of Canada made a careful examination of the geological conditions along the Athabasca and Peace Rivers, and in the intervening country, with special reference to the presumed existence of an oil field. He reported "the tar sands evidenced an upwelling of petroleum to the surface unequalled elsewhere in the world. The question of the configuration of the tar sands of the petroliferous character under cover can only be determined by boring, and it is highly desirable that drilling operations should be undertaken for this purpose."

And wonderful too it may seem, even W. A. Fraser seems to admit that there are possibilities of petroleum in northern Alberta. In the geological report, edited by Dr. Dawson, in 1894, Mr. Fraser, in his sub-report "Hidings from the rocks so far passed thru, as compared with Mr. McConnell's published section, obtained from

natural exposures further down the Athabasca River. Mr. Fraser expresses his doubts as to whether the La Biche shales are unusually thick at the landing, or whether the Pelican sandstones may here be wanting and the La Biche and Pelican shales combined to form the first mentioned theory, and on this supposition adds—with a view to the economic value of the discovery of petroleum in the far northwest, the present site must be regarded as a wise selection. Had the test been made lower down the river and nearer the outcrop of the "tar sands" the finding of petroleum might have been more certain, but if found nothing could be done until the tests were made to discover whether it might not be nearer the railway."

In the report of 1895, Mr. Fraser says: "In conclusion, I beg to call your attention strongly to the value of the information obtained, with reference to the continuance of the rock formations at this great distance from the coast, that they did so extend in a series of steps, and is one of the strongest arguments against the popular fallacy that geological knowledge is of no practical value in determining the extent of petroleum deposits." We now know that the for-

mations overlying the petroleum-saturated sandstone extend with almost unvarying regularity at least 150 miles to the south and west. That they have been found at a greater depth than anticipated matters very little; in fact, in my opinion this is rather favorable to the existence of greater natural reservoirs for oil, should it still be there.

And further in the report of 1894, Mr. Fraser, after working to 1767 feet, abandoned the work on the "tar sands." Mr. Fraser reports "that the 'tar sands' appear to be at a greater depth than estimated, but the discovery of the overlying strata, in very regular order would seem to indicate that the 'tar sands' also will be encountered within the next few hundred feet."

All this shows that Mr. Fraser didn't strike oil, but he had hopes.

From the evidence so far deduced the man of the street believes there is oil in northern Alberta, and that boring for it will prove the fact.

Five years ago there were eminent engineers who said there was no silver in Cobalt. Yes, Cobalt has paid \$16,000,000 in dividends since that time. Some people who took chances and speculated in Crown Reserve when it was at 5 cents and 10 cents a share are now rich.

Very many a man's opinion in the '90's was that there was no silver in Cobalt.

CARVE OUT NEW WARDS MR. FORMAN TO REPORT

Section East of the Don to Be Divided May Be Eight Wards.

Redistribution of the seven wards of the city, so as to give more equitable representation both in respect to population and area, will probably go into effect before the holding of the municipal elections in January, 1911.

At yesterday's meeting of the special civic committee entrusted with the duty of reporting on a fair carving, it was unanimously agreed that something must be done, and that, as a civic bylaw gives power to redistribute the wards for elections in the ensuing year, provided a redistribution bylaw is passed before July 15, it would not be necessary to obtain permissive legislation. The outcome was that Assessment Commissioner Forman was instructed to report on a just division of the city east of the Don into two wards, and the splitting up of the remainder into both five and six wards, so that the merits of either plan can be considered.

Several points cropped up in the debate, one being as to whether the aldermen should not be elected by the city at large, while Controller Ward re-audited his scheme of government by commission.

Two Riverdale Wards.

Controller Ward, who was appointed chairman, said the demand for redistribution came from the first and seventh wards. The former, with a population of 42,000 and a wide area, considered that three representatives were not adequate, while the seventh ward, with a population of 12,000 and two aldermen, wished to have three representatives. He favored Controller Spence's idea of dividing the area east of the Don, a natural boundary, into two wards, with a dividing line at Greenwood-avenue, and suggested that Wyckwood, Dovercourt and Earlsford be included in the seventh ward, so as to entitle it to another alderman. This would mean having eight wards and 24 aldermen, comparing with seven wards and 20 aldermen, as at present.

Wants Fewer Aldermen.

Ald. McMurrish believed in decreasing the number of aldermen instead of creating more, and also that, instead of irregular ward boundaries, the divisions should be on a straight line from the waterfront to the north-south line.

Controller Ward thought there should be a graduated scale of remuneration for aldermen—those representing the larger wards to receive the higher compensation. He submitted figures supplied by the assessment commissioner, showing the population west of Bathurst-street to be 122,000; between Bathurst and Simcoe-street 60,000, and east of Simcoe-street 117,000.

That the aldermen should be elected by the city at large was also suggested by the proposal, as a means of doing away with sectionalism of feeling.

"We might divide the city at Spadina-avenue and have an alderman elected for each division," suggested the chairman, Ald. Maguire, also favored electing by the whole body of citizens.

"Rep. by Pop."

Controller Spence held that the principle of representation by population rather than area should be adopted. If the section east of Greenwood-avenue were given two aldermen, as proposed by Controller Ward, and the district between Greenwood-avenue and the Don three, there would be one alderman for 3000 population, a disproportionate representation. He thought two aldermen for each section more equitable.

"At the earliest opportunity, I will move to have a commission appointed for three years," Ald. Maguire volunteered Controller Ward. He explained that he would have the mayor and six commissioners elected by the people for three years. Ald. Maguire supported the plan, remarking that it had been found to work well in United States cities.

Ald. Baird said he would like to see the area north of the northern C. P. R. tracks created a separate ward. He was not in favor of adding to the seventh ward, the districts proposed.

In informal discussion after the meeting, it appeared that the scheme of government by commission was regarded as of doubtful merit. Controller Spence held that the present system is a wholesome check and that a commission would simply be a controlling body not subject to such influence. The necessity of going to the polls every year also exercised a salutary influence. Similar views were expressed by others.

Architect Takes Risk.

A peculiar situation has arisen out of the refusal of last year's board of control to allow Mrs. Mary Lane to add to her house at the corner of Ironwood and Malabar-avenues on Centre street a large wing for rooms. Mrs. Lane is again demanding a permit, and threatens to start a legal battle to cover damages if the light is denied. City architect yesterday instructed the city architect to refuse the permit, but shouldering upon him the responsibility of defending any suit. Mr. McCallum is undecided.

Toronto's Growth.

Assessment Commissioner Forman has compiled some interesting figures as to the city's growth, including the following: assessment for 1906, \$167,861,755, comparing with \$267,030,753 for 1910, to which is to be added \$3,000,000 for Balmby Beach, the Midway, Dovercourt and Earlsford, a total increase of \$102,168,983. In 1906, the city's area was about twenty square miles or 12,718 acres, while for 1910 it is about 28 square miles, or 17,896 acres. There were 86,823 assessments in 1906, and 108,338 in 1910, exclusive of Earlsford, the Midway and Balmby Beach.

Increase in Deaths.

Births, deaths and marriages during January all show a considerable increase as compared with January, 1909. Typhoid fever was responsible for two typical deaths, as against only two for the corresponding month last year, but

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\$61.00—Mobile, Ala. From New York by steamer, calling at both Key West and Tampa, Fla., en route, with stopovers at either or both ports, and returning by all rail.

\$75.00—Galveston, Tex. From New York by steamer to Key West, Fla., (permitting side trip to Miami, Fla., Fort Lauderdale, Ft. Pierce, Ft. St. Johns River in Jacksonville, then steamer to Galveston, Tex., thence through the Gulf of Mexico to Galveston, Tex., and returning by all rail.

\$95.00—Havana, Cuba. From New York by steamer to Key West, Fla., (permitting side trip to Miami, Fla., Fort Lauderdale, Ft. Pierce, Ft. St. Johns River in Jacksonville, then steamer to Havana, Cuba, and returning by all rail.

\$112.50—Mexico City. From New York by steamer to Key West, Fla., (permitting side trip to Miami, Fla., Fort Lauderdale, Ft. Pierce, Ft. St. Johns River in Jacksonville, then steamer to Mexico City, and returning by all rail.

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Fighting for Sackville Peerage.

LONDON, Feb. 1.—For a second time, Ernest Henry Sackville-West is asking the courts to declare him the eldest and legitimate son of the late Lord Sackville-West. The present Lord Sackville-West is married to a sister of the petitioner, who is the son of a Spanish dancer, who married his father, so the defence alleges, while she had another husband living, Sir Robert Finlay is counsel for the defence.

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