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JOHN CAMERON,
Pres't and Managing Director.

God's in His heaven.
All's right with the world.
—Browning.

London, Tuesday, April 30.

WILL A NEW OIL FIELD BE FOUND IN THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST?

The recent unusual flurry in the United States petroleum market, and the declaration that the yield of oil from the chief source of the world's oil supply is steadily on the decrease, makes especially interesting the latest report of the Geological Survey of Canada. This report deals at some length with the boring for oil at Athabasca Landing, N. W. T., during the past year. The experiments are not yet completed, but so far they are of more than passing moment to the oil men of Western Ontario, and will be studied by many other readers not directly concerned in petroleum production.

Dr. Dawson mentions that the occurrence of great quantities of bitumen or maltha along a portion of the Athabasca River has long been known, having been noticed and commented upon by the very earliest travelers in the region. Beds of sand or very soft sandstone of cretaceous age, varying from 140 to 225 feet in thickness, are there found to be more or less completely saturated with bitumen, for a distance of some 90 miles along the river. These beds are known as "tar sands." More recently a number of smaller occurrences of bitumen in the form of "tar springs," as well as sources of combustible gas, have been found at different places over a very extensive district. All these circumstances point to the probable existence of a great petroleum field, of which possibly some parts have already exhausted themselves in saturating the lowest cretaceous sands, but of which probably the greater portion is still effectively sealed by the thick covering of overlying rocks.

The importance of actually ascertaining by means of boring operations the existence or otherwise of economically valuable bodies of petroleum in the Athabasca region has been recognized for many years, but the remoteness of the region and the apparent impossibility of immediately utilizing any discoveries which might be made, have hitherto prevented the necessary experiments. The recent completion of a line of railway to Edmonton, has, however, considerably changed the conditions in these respects, and some time since Parliament made a grant for the purpose of securing a thorough examination of the strata. Mr. A. W. Fraser, an expert well known in the Petroleum region, who had previous experience in boring for petroleum in Burma and Beloochistan as well, was chosen for the work, and on the 1st of August last year he broke ground. The results of the boring are given in detail in the report of the department. The indications are decidedly favorable. Down to 245 feet soft and hard slate were met with alternately. At the depth named a hard flow of gas was met with. It threw the water in the bore-hole over the top of the derrick. At 334 feet another large flow of gas was struck. The roaring of the gas could be heard half a mile away from the works, and it was considered unsafe to work with the boiler in its former position, so it was removed 55 feet. The foreman at the works, who had seen the big gas well at Kingsville, Ont., asserts that the flow of gas was as strong as emitted from that phenomenal well. It was very difficult to combat this gas, but finally, by letting the water for drilling down the hole in the sand pump the workers managed to get the boring started again. Through various formations of shale and rock the drill was forced till 730 feet was attained, when salt water and gas was struck. The formation in this strata was decidedly soft and muddy. After a depth of 1,011 feet had been bored without reaching oil, and the season being far advanced, operations were suspended for the year.

The result is not disappointing, for experts tell us that the indications are such that they do not expect to find petroleum until a depth of from 1,500 to 1,600 feet is reached, and it is understood that during this summer the boring will be continued to the depth of 1,500 feet, and if oil is not found then the operators will be set at work in another locality where the indications of petroleum are strong, probably further down the Athabasca River, nearer to the actual outcrop of the bitumen-bearing sands, and where the depth of the overlying rocks is less, though the distance from existing means of communication is greater.

The geological authorities reach these conclusions:
"All indications favor a belief in the existence of a great petroleum-bearing region in the Northwest, and the

results which would flow directly from the definition of such a region are so important as to warrant any expenditure which may be necessary in that direction. It is not probable that petroleum, if found in Northern Alberta or in Athabasca, would seriously compete in the east with the already established petroleum industry of Ontario; but the considerable and yearly increasing demands of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories would afford a local market which might be large, as, if the oil could be furnished at a low price, it would undoubtedly be employed as a liquid fuel for railways in many parts of the country. The comparative proximity of the Athabasca region to the Pacific further indicates that an enormous foreign demand, coextensive with the shores of that ocean, might be most profitably supplied from this region. The extent of this market may be in part realized when it is stated that the export of illuminating and paraffine oils from the United States to Japan, China and Hong Kong alone amounted in 1893 to 67,572,136 gallons."

The borings of the present year will probably go a long way to solve the problem of whether or not oil can be obtained in paying quantities in the locality named. If it can, it will be a great thing for the Territories.

EDITORIAL POINTS.

Newfoundland seems timid about joining us. Perhaps Mr. Foster's deficit has frightened her.

The New Glasgow, N. S., Chronicle charges 10 cents a line for obituary poetry.

Mayor Pingree's potato patch is being agitated in Cleveland. Now that meat is scarce over the border, there ought to be an extra demand for potatoes.

Justice Andrews has just decided that the heirs of Jay Gould must pay \$180,000 in taxes on personal property of \$10,000,000. The heirs will fight the judgment in a higher court. Many people would be glad to pay double that tax if someone would furnish them with the property.

Sir Oliver Mowat having been elected honorary president of a Hamilton baseball club, the Spectator remarks that he should be assigned to the pitcher's box on account of his puzzling and erratic delivery. No doubt the failure of his opponents to score a base hit during the recent Legislative match at Toronto prompted the suggestion.

And now Japan is to have a World's Fair at Kyoto. It is said the Chinese exhibit will not be a conspicuous feature.

There is no denying the efficiency of Hon. N. Clarke Wallace as controller of his wild, impassioned desire to resign. When he is tempted to get out in haste, Mr. Wallace remembers that he did not get inside in a hurry.—Toronto Telegram.

The newspaper is the commercial traveler in city and country homes, who tells at the fireside, to its evening circle, the merits of your wares and merchandise, if you are wise enough to employ it to speak for you. It never is neglected, never goes unheeded, never speaks to inattentive or unwilling ears. It never bores. It never tires. It is always a welcome visitor, and meets a cordial reception. It speaks when the day is done, when cares vanish, when the mind at peace and at rest is in its most receptive mood. Then it is that its story is told, and all who read treasure what it says, and are influenced to go where it directs for the thing of which it speaks.

But there is no literature for the common people like that of the newspaper. What better message can the merchant send than his advertisement of household necessities or fashion's novelties? What better avenue to the domestic group can the tradesman find?

Do you fish? If you are a devotee of the angler's art, you will be interested to know that the best trout stream in Canada is alleged to be the Nipigon River, north of Lake Superior. Mr. W. McInnes, of the Dominion Geological Survey, informs us that the brook trout found in that northern water are probably unexcelled anywhere for size and numbers, running up to weights of five to seven pounds and over. They are not confined to the river, but are caught in the main lake itself, a fact which renders their extermination by legitimate fishing in the river practically impossible. In addition to brook trout the principal food fishes of the lake are lake trout, pike and whitefish, all of which are abundant. The scenery along the river is grand and varied, and the stream is easy of ascent by canoe, with rapids and falls at intervals along its course, which are wild enough to make a summer excursion interesting without being dangerous. From London and the West the river is reached by the G. T. R. and C. P. R. For holiday makers with some leisure it should prove an increasingly attractive spot.

Last week's issue of the Canada Presbyterian was noteworthy owing to increase of size and the special interest and value of its contents. It contained a complete report of the annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, extending to fourteen columns. Every member of this important society should have a copy. Other useful features are the Christian Endeavor Department, by Rev. W. S. McTavish, B.D., St. George; the Sabbath School Lesson, by Rev. W. A. J. Martin, of Toronto; and letters from missionaries in the foreign fields. "Sundays in Scotland" is a bright description of several ministers and churches in the motherland of so many Canadians. All the regular departments are unusually full. "Knoxian," continuing his breezy contributions, so long a feature of the paper. The publishers offer a trial subscription till Jan. 1 next for one dollar.

House and Lobby

No Militia Camp Likely This Year—What the Estimates Contain—Big Increase in the Public Debt—A Good Stroke by the G. T. R.—Another New Liberal M. P. Introduced—The Worthless Census.

Specially Telegraphed by Our Own Representative.

Ottawa, April 29.—The most important event at today's sitting of the Commons was the introduction of Mr. Geffrion, the victor in Varcheres, Mr. Laurier and Mr. McIsaacs, the hero of Antigonish, introduced the new member, who, like his brother, has made his mark in his Province, and is a distinct acquisition to the Liberal side. Mr. Geffrion took his seat between Mr. Rinfret and Mr. McMullen.

Then came the submission of the estimates of the moneys required for the conduct of the business of the Dominion for the year from 30th of June next. It had been predicted that there would be vast reductions as compared with last year. But the supplementary estimates are to come yet, and no one knows how much is kept back till they are submitted in the dying days of the session. Here is a comparative summary of the amounts required in the several branches of the service:

	1894-5.	1895-6.
For civil service, and collection of revenue—large—		
Consolidated fund—	\$38,517,152 29	\$36,834,438 38
Redemption of debt—	93,886 60	1,731,839 61
Railways and canals (capital)—	2,894,575 00	2,537,420 00
Public works (capital)—	105,000 00	85,000 00
Dominion lands (capital)—	100,000 00	75,000 00
Total—	\$41,710,613 89	\$41,243,417 99

There is a decrease in expenditure here as compared with the estimates of last year, but it must not be forgotten that last year, just as Parliament was ready to prorogue, the Government brought down supplementary estimates for \$1,804,470. The same will happen this year. The amount will depend on the pressure of needy ones.

The public debt keeps mounting up, as is shown by the increase of interest payable from \$10,141,193 80 last year to \$10,579,348 83 this year. For the expense of the coming general election the Government provides \$110,000. Then \$30,000 additional is asked for the Royal Whiskey Commission, and the end is not yet. Some \$567 50 is cut off the vote for London letter carriers, and \$1,600 of salaries in the London customs house.

The House today transacted a good deal of miscellaneous business. Mr. McCarthy introduced his bill relating to the House of Commons. It provides that when the House is in session the Government and not the Speaker shall have power to issue a writ to fill vacancies. Between sessions, if the Government neglects for so many days to issue a writ for a necessary by-election, the clerk of the crown must send the writ to the sheriff, as in England. This will prevent a repetition of scandalous delays in filling vacant seats.

An interesting discussion took place regarding the delay in bringing down the report of the departments at Ottawa, raised by a motion for papers by Mr. Charlton. Mr. Charlton pointed out that it is now nearly twelve months since the financial year closed, and some of the reports are not yet before the House. He charged that the ministers had not intended to meet the House, and had been on a campaign tour instead of finishing their reports.

Dr. Landerkin inquired why the return asked for last year showing the articles imported from the United States for use in the departments, had not been brought down.

Mr. McMullen said the rival factions in the Cabinet who were quarreling over their policy regarding the general election could not find time to obey the orders of the House.

Mr. Foster retorted that if the Government had election in one eye as suggested, the Opposition had the election in two eyes.

"We are ready for it, too," piped up Dr. Landerkin.

Mr. Foster said: "Of course we have to prepare for election at all times. It is unfortunate for you, is it not?" merrily queried Hon. D. Mills.

"When will the major-general of the militia report, and where is he now?" asked Dr. Landerkin.

"I do not know, and I am in total ignorance of his present whereabouts," was the extraordinary answer of the Government leader.

Dr. Macdonald, Mr. Mulock and Mr. Edgar each gave instances of the utter disregard of duty by Ministers. It being pointed out that the Government printers and even outsiders were rushed beyond precedent to get ready the voters' lists upon which the elections were to be held, the reports necessary to show the malfeasance of the Administration were kept back, and were even now not before Parliament.

The rights of the owners of Anticosti came up on a motion by Mr. Forbes for a return asking for their names and the exclusive privileges they had. Mr. Forbes and Mr. Fraser, two Nova Scotian members, said the owners claimed under the rights ceded with the island when it was given up by France certain privileges as to the control of the cod fisheries that should be defined. The Canadian fishermen might suffer.

Mr. Laurier rather thought that these feudal seigniorial rights had been wiped out, but the question should be investigated.

Mr. Foster promised attention.

Little is known about the island, it seems, except that it is owned by an English syndicate, who are trying to sell out.

A motion for census returns of alleged factories discovered by census enumerators in Queens and Shelburne counties, N. S., a lively discussion took place. Mr. Forbes said many of the supposed factories could not be found. He desired to see how the census men figured it out, and complained of the failure of the Government to bring down the papers asked over a year ago. When he applied at the Department he was told it was because there was no money. He and Hon. David Mills pointed out the worthless character of the census, and instanced London, with its alleged 800 factories. He was given to understand that every seamstress who took in a little sewing was rated a manufacturer, and the house where she lived a factory.

Mr. Montague said the system was

the same as in England, but Mr. McMullen gave this assertion an emphatic denial and added the reports from Mount Forest to prove the unreliability of the work.

Dr. Macdonald said he would like to have shown him the 53 factories alleged by the census to exist in Wingham. The reports were promised.

Mr. McMillan made an impromptu speech in moving for a return of copies of all correspondence between the Canadian Government and the United States authorities with regard to permission to transport Canadian cattle over United States territory for shipment to Great Britain from United States ports. He pointed out that it was to the G. T. R. and not to the Government of Canada that the farmers of Canada owned the privilege granted by the United States Government of shipping their cattle from Portland. What is now wanted is the further privilege of shipping from New York and Boston. Mr. McMillan scolding the Administration for their inattention to the farmers' interests.

Dr. Montague was rising to reply, but Mr. Foster motioned him to keep still—a wise suggestion.

Mr. Edgar moved for a statement showing the items on which duties have been increased by the Canadian tariff from 1873 to date, the date of the increase, and the amount of the increase on each item.

Mr. Clark Wallace said the preparation of the return would entail great labor and cost.

Mr. Edgar said that the return would be much more easily prepared than the return moved for by Mr. Amyot several days ago to get at the decreases in the tariff.

Mr. Mulock ridiculed the excuses of the Comptroller, and Dr. Landerkin caused much merriment by suggesting that the largely-increased Cabinet work could easily be done without calling in outside help. "I want," said the doctor, with a twinkle in his eye, "to provide some work for Mr. Wallace, so that when trouble occurs in the Cabinet he may be kept at home and prevented from taking refuge in the United States."

The order passed, but there is no prospect that it will be respected till after next general election. The House adjourned today at 6 o'clock.

The Minister of Public Works today stated that it would take \$6,000,000 to complete the improvements on the canals of the Dominion. The Department intend to deepen the canals and channels of the St. Lawrence to any greater extent than is requisite to complete the improvements in progress.

Mr. McMullen proposes to secure economy in the public service in a bill of which he gives notice. He proposes that the salaries of the Lieutenant-Governor in Quebec be reduced from \$10,000 to \$6,000, and of the other Provinces, except Prince Edward Island, to \$5,000. The governor of the last named Mr. McMullen would give \$4,000 a year.

The Auditor-General's report for last year, issued today, is a ponderous volume. The amount expended for advertising was \$4,690 and for printing and lithographing \$224,935.

The Chicago Exhibition expenditures so far are \$113,937.

The defunct Toronto Empire was paid \$1,000 for an illustrated paper.

John S. Larke drew an additional bill for expenses, etc., of \$5,248.

High Commissioner Tupper's office in London cost Canada \$28,887.

The Auditor-General points out that no final estimate of the Langevin Block has yet been received. This is a delay of five years.

\$101,073 was paid to lawyers in one year. O'Connor & Hogg, Ottawa, take \$19,850, while Chris. Robinson, Toronto, gets \$21,733.

Col. O'Brien will ask whether the Government has been asked for land to found a colony for Gen. Booth's "neglected masses."

Mr. Giesse (Perth) will ask for particulars regarding the manufacture and sale of binder twine by Kingston Penitentiary authorities.

Mr. Boston has received the resolution in favor of protecting the shipment of Canadian cattle by way of the United States and will support it.

Mr. Sutherland was informed today that James Anderson Sutton is not a Government employee.

Mr. Casey was told that 3 cents per name and 50 cents per heading were paid for voters' lists printed outside the bureau this year.

A meeting of the Dominion Alliance is expected on May 9. Until after that Mr. Flint will hold his resolution in favor of prohibition in abeyance.

Mr. Lowell, M. P. for Welland, arrived today.

Sir C. H. Tupper still absents himself from Parliament.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell introduced the Insolvency bill in the Senate today, remarking that the measure was practically as amended last session. The bill will be read a second time on Monday.

It looks as if there would be no militia camps this year. I can find no money in the estimates for that purpose. There is also a cut made in the grants for city battalions. There was no camp at London last year.

I learn today that Sir Oliver Mowat sails for Britain on May 25.

The next royal marriage to take place is that of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha and the Princess Elsa of Wurttemberg.

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Western Advertiser

(OUR WEEKLY EDITION.)

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Such Delightful Weather!

It is enough to cheer up the gloomiest soul, and put new life and vigor into every human being.

Print Wrappers.

Who can afford to be without one of these neat, stylish gowns, which for perfect fitting, good washing and durability, are not to be equaled outside of

John H. Chapman's

We pride ourselves in this particular line of ready-made garments, which was largely introduced to the trade of the west by ourselves.

Our Own Make.

We hardly need state that the imported wrappers are not to be compared to those of our own manufacture, and hundreds of customers now wearing them can bear us out in our statement.

Best Washing Materials.

Nothing but the best washing prints are used in our wrappers, pinks, blues, cardinals, garnets, fawns, grays and blacks are some of the colors we are showing.

\$1 50 and \$1 75

We confine ourselves to these two special lines, and as none other than the very best materials are used in making these garments, we feel safe in saying they have no equal.

We have a few odd lines we are clearing out at \$1 25. Come early if you wish to secure one of these wrappers at the price mentioned above.

Ladies' Spring Capes

We start them at \$1 25. This is the third shipment we have had of these capes. You need only to see them to appreciate their value. In black and navy only.

Our variety is still complete in all the other lines, ranging from \$2 to \$18, in every new shade and color.

One dollar off the price of any coat in stock. This is a rare chance. Don't mistake the place.

TERMS CASH



IN YOUR COPY FOR NEW ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE

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JOHN H. CHAPMAN & CO.