

good as it is here, this field being on a branch line of the standard gauge which connects with all trans-continental lines at Edmonton only 300 miles distant, it might be well to say: For the amount of territory covered to date and the shallow depth, approximately one thousand feet, and with a showing of over four hundred feet of oil in well from a uniform depth of seventy feet of oil producing sands, we are inclined to doubt if this condition for the amount of prospecting can be duplicated on this continent, and the end is not yet.

Another attractive feature exists here in this Great Dominion of Canada, and it is also mighty important to the investor, and it is this: The Dominion Government has a system of leasing in vogue which entitles the lessee of oil and gas leases from the Government to a lease of twenty-one years—with right of renewal of twenty-one years more, at the rate of fifty cents per acre per annum (with the proviso that a drilling plant be installed and in operation within the first eighteen months of the lease) it being the evident intention of the Government to encourage oil production, and more than that, the Government gives a bonus of fifty cents per bbl. on each and every barrel of oil so produced in the Dominion.

These conditions are generous. It is not going too far to say that an equal amount of liberality does not exist on the face of this globe in respect of the laws governing the securing of oil and gas leases from the Government of any country.

There is to date some three hundred thousand acres thus leased by our local people here, and it is not a difficult matter for any one who would desire to drill for oil to obtain a choice location under existing lease in good standing from the Government, upon very liberal terms as to a division of the oil without the payment of any cash down.

Of course, as soon as any one of these wells is placed on the pump and a certified statement of the actual production takes place, it is not out of reason to suppose that these leases referred to will be very much more in demand and as a result much more valuable than they would appear to the outsider to be to-day.

In conclusion, I wish to state that what is herein contained with regard to development and the field in general, can be taken as the actual fact, as I have been an actual resident on the ground from the first day of drilling here. I have the refined product, and a signed verification of the above facts by the drillers on the ground, together with the log and core of drillings. Experienced drillers make the statement that it is ideal drilling for a rotary, in which case a well should be put down in thirty days from commencement of drilling operations.

COAL LANDS CASE GOES TO PRIVY COUNCIL.

Two important actions, both involving title to the disputed coal rights of the Esquimault and Nanaimo Railway Belt, Vancouver Island, B.C., will come before the Privy Council in England this summer. Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, Attorney General of the Province, leaves shortly to appear before that court on behalf of the Province. One of these cases is that between the E. & N. Ry. Co. and H. W. Treat, the latter being a resident of Seattle, Wn. A lease was given the latter by the Provincial Government to certain foreshore on the east coast of Vancouver Island and to this the

company, by virtue of the terms of the grant it received in the year 1884, claims the ownership. It may be stated that Mr. Treat proposes, if he is successful in his suit, developing the foreshore in question for its coal. From the Provincial standpoint its interest is to maintain the validity of its lease and to establish its authority to give such title. If the effect fails it follows that the company will have possession of all the foreshore on the east coast of the Island from Esquimault to Nanaimo, a distance practically as the crow flies of 80 miles and of indeterminate extent if the indulations of the shore line be followed. Then there are two cases of a similar character, namely, Esquimault and Nanaimo Ry. Co. vs. Dunlap and Esquimault and Nanaimo Ry. Co. vs. Wilson and McKenzie (Ganner Estate). In these Crown Grants to coal rights within the Railway Belt were issued to the defendants by the Provincial Government in accordance with the terms of the Settlers Rights Act, 1917. These Grants were issued by the Province during the interval elapsing between the passage of the Act by the Provincial Legislature and its disallowance almost a year later by the Dominion. The position taken by the company is that the Grants were vetoed automatically with the disallowance. If this is not controverted it is likely to have a serious effect on one large and important island enterprise of recent date, namely, that of the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company at Cassidy's Landing, to which some reference has been made in these columns. The Granby company holds its coal lands and, if the provincial title which it holds is found invalid, it may be in a serious predicament, as development has proceeded to the point that there is now a producing mine provided with modern plant and equipment. Besides coke ovens, which are understood to depend for their supply on the Cassidy Colliery, are nearly completed at Anyox, B.C., the site of the company's copper smelter. For these reasons Mr. Farris's trip has a special interest to the coal mine operators of this Province.

Meanwhile the agitation among the settlers of the E. & N. Railway Belt, as a result of the disallowance of the Settlers' Rights Act passed at the last session of the Provincial Legislature by the Dominion Government, continues. A deputation of residents of the Newcastle District recently waited on Hon. John Oliver, Premier, and Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, to ask what action would be taken to secure them their coal rights in view of the course taken by the Dominion. It will be recalled that the Provincial legislation of 1917 was disallowed at Ottawa and that the Lieut.-Governor refused his assent to the re-enacted measure of 1918, this being done, it is assumed, on advice from the Capital. The delegation was informed that, in view of the attitude of the Federal authorities in 1917, and what has since transpired, there seemed little reason to believe that the 1918 legislation would be allowed, so that the chances of their having an opportunity to obtain title to their coal rights appeared to be slim. There are 180 settlers affected, at any rate that number of applications were under consideration at the time the Act was vetoed. These people propose now directing their representations to Ottawa and with that end in view a general meeting of protest is to be held at Nanaimo, B.C., shortly and it is considered likely that a delegation will be despatched to the Capital to present the settlers case, first hand, to members of the government.