

would turn out to be dusters. Now we're going to show 'em up. We're going to prove that we've the nicest little packet this side of Burkburnett, Texas, and that's saying something."

Perhaps, by quoting this man I am unfair to the many solid oil-boring concerns now operating in the West and in other parts of Canada and which probably have a sound investment offer to place before the public. I do not mean to be unfair; but what I have said will go down as an illustration of the confident sort of talk handed out at a majority of the oil stock offices. Much of the talk may be based on facts. It is obvious that a good deal of it is based on supposition and exaggeration. But do not get the idea that only the oil promoters show optimism as to Canada's oil producing capabilities.

It is a fact that so far Canada's production of petroleum may be regarded as insignificant. According to Dominion Government statistics, Canada's annual oil output up-to-date stops short of 310,000 barrels (90 per cent. from the Ontario fields), as against over 330,000,000 barrels produced by the United States.

The possibilities for oil development in the Dominion of Canada are very much greater than these figures would indicate. Big scale prospecting for oil has been going on in Canada for comparatively few years, and there has been insufficient time to make a comprehensive statement as to what this country of ours is likely to produce. However, there are a few pretty definite phases of the oil situation and I am going to try to present some of them in this article.

First of all, we may be unable to determine just where oil exists, but there are certain factors that guide us in ascertaining what territory is barren of oil, and by investigating according to this theory we arrive at an idea as to what parts of Canada are potential oil fields. If we take a map of Canada, for instance, and very roughly draw a line from the east of

Great Slave Lake, passing through Lake Athabaska, down to the north end of Lake Winnipeg, along the east shore of the lake to its southerly end, thence to and along the north shore of Lake Superior to the Soo, and from that point along the northern shore of Georgian Bay to Parry Sound, and finally due east to the St. Lawrence River and along the northerly bank of that river to its mouth, we shall have divided the Dominion into two vast areas. The country lying north of the line may be classed as generally hopeless for oil prospecting, while that lying westward and southward is regarded, owing to its geological formation, rich in promise for the finding of productive oil fields.

Although there are countless localities in which there are strong indications of the presence of oil, investigations have been carried out principally in several clearly defined regions. Without going too much into detail regarding the geological and technical phases of the proposition, let us review a few of these regions, note what they have done in the past, are doing now and what they are likely to do in the future towards making Canada a world figure in the oil production business.

Let us take Ontario first. The so-called Devonian formations of this province are at present producing the greater part of the output of the Dominion and have been producing since 1857. The Mosa oilfield in Middlesex County has been leading for a long time. The prospect was abandoned as hopeless some years ago, but careful study of the formations, followed by practical drilling, resulted in finding a pool which contributed in 1918 108,988 barrels of the provincial total of 288,760 barrels. There are eleven other fields in the province, and while the output appears to be declining and many of the pools are almost drained to emptiness, there are indications of the presence of an extensive oil reserve which hitherto has been untapped.