

Possibilities of Oil at Burnaby.

Q Last month the whole district of Burnaby was thoroughly examined for oil by Mr. W. R. Jewell, of Kansas City, Mo., acting for outside capitalists, who have since become interested as the result of his examination. Mr. Jewell is one of the best known oil men on the American Continent. He was located at Bakersville, California, for several years, where he had extensive practice as an oil expert. He was previously connected with U. S. Geological Survey, and has made expert examinations of all important oil fields on this continent. He is now engaged in private offices at Kansas City, Mo., as a member of the firm of Snr & Jewell, Geologists and Petroleum Engineers.

Q The following data and recommendations are taken from his report, based upon a careful and complete examination of the Burnaby field:

" . . . On Still Creek, at a point one mile west of the seepage, the writer personally saw natural gas bubbling through the water. . . .

"Altogether there is a thickness of approximately three thousand feet of Tertiary measures, underlain by uncomformable Cretaceous rocks. Hence three thousand feet would represent the extreme limit of drilling depth, were oil not found at less depth. . . .

" . . . In general throughout this area the dip of the strata is southwest. Two notable exceptions were found, however, which, when correlated, bear strong evidence of an anticlinal fold. . . .

" . . . At this point it is interesting to note that the petroleum seepages are near the indicated apex of this fold. . . .

" . . . It is believed by the writer that certain of the Tertiary strata are oil and gas bearing and that through the agency of erosion—the same agency which formed the valley in which the seepages occur—the impervious rock which capped the oil-bearing strata has been sufficiently denuded to allow the escape of gas and oil, giving rise to the seepage as seen today. The apex of the structure would be the first to be denuded, and it is invariably along the high points in a structure that we find the strongest accumulation of petroleum and natural gas."

"Since the seepages prove without a doubt that formations of the Tertiary are petroliferous, and since we have strong evidence that those formations are embraced in an anticlinal fold, we may very reasonably expect to develop oil upon drilling any point along the apex of the anticline.

"Because of a thickness of twenty feet of peat, it is impossible to study the nature and occurrence of the seepages, and we are therefore unable to definitely determine the exact horizon of the tertiary which is furnishing the oil. In the absence of faulting, however, it is reasonable to expect that the petroliferous formation will be found at a shallow depth, probably at less than a thousand feet.

" . . . By drainage area is meant the lateral extent of oil-bearing formation across a structure which will contribute oil to that structure and continue to contribute when the structure is drilled. In the case of this anticlinal structure there is more than sufficient drainage or tributary area to support a commercially important oil field, provided there is a commensurate thickness of oil sands. . . .

" . . . It is the writer's opinion that a well drilled near the centre of the north half of District Lot 130 will obtain not only this seepage oil, but oil from deeper measures."