

Extension of Railway to Gaspé

to another important publication published in 1940 by the American Association of Geologists, entitled: "Possible Future Oil Provinces of the United States and Canada." As I have stated on many previous occasions, this latter publication referred to the Gaspé peninsula as one of the richest regions of Canada, and perhaps of America, in petroleum fields.

It is not my wish to indulge in repetitions of my previous statements with regard to oil possibilities in Gaspé, but I wish to give a brief summary of a recent report on the Gaspé petroleum developments made by Mr. I. W. Jones, chief of the geological surveys branch, Quebec, dated February 23, 1950. This report mentions that four companies are now searching for oil in Gaspé: Gaspé Oil Ventures, Limited; Continental Petroleum, Limited; Peninsular Oil Corporation Limited, and Quebec Oil Developments. These companies have special exploration licences ranging from 8,496 acres to 74,180 acres. Three wells were being drilled in 1949, with the following results: Continental Gaspé No. 1, Galt township, depth 1,380 feet; Quebec Oil No. 1, Joncas township, depth 349 feet; Peninsula Deardorf No. 1, Holland township, depth 4,126 feet. Work was also done on two other wells as follows: Imperial Gaspé No. 1, Fletcher township, depth 6,360 feet; Venture No. 3, Galt township, depth 2,399 feet.

Small quantities of oil were found in Venture No. 3, depth 2,297 feet, up to one gallon per day, and in Continental Gaspé No. 1, depth 928 feet, one-quarter to three-quarter barrels, or 10 to 30 gallons per day. On Imperial Gaspé No. 1 stains of oil were seen on rock at about 2,600 feet.

In November and December, 1949, these three wells were acidized by introducing acid in the well, as is the current practice in oil-bearing regions, especially where there is limestone. The acid acts on the lime and makes the rock more porous, thus facilitating the flow of oil.

Acidizing of Venture No. 3 and Continental Gaspé No. 1 increased the flow of oil to about one to four barrels per day. Gas is also coming out of Continental Gaspé No. 1.

Approximately half a million dollars have been spent in the search for petroleum in Gaspé during recent years, but this amount is not great in comparison to expenditures made in search for oil in other parts of Canada. One has only to bear in mind that Imperial Oil alone spent more than \$25 million in Alberta before attaining major success, to realize that our search for oil in Gaspé has been done so far on a very minor scale.

The main difficulty in increasing this search for oil is the lack of transportation facilities. This is stressed in all the reports made by mining engineers connected with drilling or searching for oil in Gaspé peninsula. Also there is the normal and comprehensible reluctance of those interested in investing further capital in a region devoid of such facilities.

In addition to the silver-lead-zinc mine already in operation in the region to which I made reference previously, it is interesting to mention the results attained in the prospecting operations for copper.

The 1949 annual report of Noranda Mines Limited lends support to the view that their property in Gaspé is taking on real importance. Mr. H. L. Roscoe, general manager, confirmed current reports that the drilling done in 1949 is quite encouraging. Four bands of ore, overlying each other, have been located, with the lowest of these apparently running the best grade. Extensive drilling has been done, and the diamond drill program is continuing steadily.

Drilling before the war indicated 35 million tons of material at Noranda's Gaspé Copper Mines Limited, subsidiary, averaging 0.9 per cent copper. Drilling in 1948 added a further 6 million tons of 1.8 per cent copper grade. Results since then have continued encouraging. Deepening of old holes through 150 feet of barren material resulted in exploration getting into better grade.

The property of Gaspé Copper Mines Limited is located at Needle Mountain in Holland township. As it is not far from the St. Lawrence, construction of a railway to carry copper concentrates to deep-water wharves would not present any great problem.

Though as yet this has not been officially confirmed by either the company or the provincial government, Gaspé Copper Mines Limited have already obtained the permission to build a dam on the Magdalen river in order to supply electric power to their mining operations. There are even rumours that the contract for the building of this dam has already been awarded to a construction company. The tonnage drilled in 1949, some 7 million tons, has an average of better than two per cent copper, and the total tonnage drilled now amounts to over 48 millions tons.

I tabled a few minutes ago a report showing shipments of lumber made in 1947 from Cap Chat and Ste. Anne des Monts. The shipments from these two shipping points amounted to only 57,970 million board feet or 28,985 standards. The lumber industry is the most important one in our region, and our production could be increased if our producers could ship all year round to markets