

From all that has been ascertained it is clear that the experimental work, more particularly in the earlier stages, has been conducted in a very unskilful manner, and that the apparatus used was, for the most part, out-of-date. Yet this is but the history of most of the initial attempts at mining development.

The foregoing applies more particularly to that portion of the region surrounding Parsons' Pond, a small section only of which has as yet been tested by the drill rod. Similar geological conditions are known to be applicable to a large extent of the territory on either side of the pond, and oil may reasonably be expected to occur at many other parts of their distribution. For that matter, indications of petroleum are met with along the whole extent of coast, from the vicinity of Port au Port Bay, for a distance of at least 200 miles northward. Towards the western extremity the strata are so much disturbed and altered by igneous and metamorphic action as to afford little prospect of oil in available quantity occurring. Portions of the petroliferous strata are seen at many points, caught up in, or twisted and contorted by the intrusion of trap dykes, etc., yet in every case these sections indicate the presence of petroleum, some of the rocks being saturated with it.

From this it may be inferred that it is the more northerly portion of the coast which affords the greatest promise. The operations in the immediate vicinity of Parsons' Pond have clearly demonstrated the existence of oil in no inconsiderable quantity at that point. Sufficient work has been accomplished there to prove beyond question that the territory is a petroliferous one. No well, so far, sunk has proved entirely destitute of some show of oil, which can be said of every oil field. It appears to me only a question of putting down a sufficient number of wells to make it a paying proposition. If the yeild during 1904-5 be taken as a criterion to form a basis for calculation, the wells then operated gave a total of $10\frac{1}{2}$ barrels per diem, or an average of over 2 barrels per well, and it is but reasonable to suppose that other wells yet to be sunk will afford at least as good results. Were the property adequately and efficiently developed so as to reach a point where it would yield say 250 bar-