

the lands in Enniskillen, on which the superficial deposits of asphalt occur, for the purpose of using it as a substitute for coal in the manufacture of such oils, it being ascertained to contain 80 per cent. of volatile matters. It was soon discovered, however, on penetrating below the asphalt, that the material could be obtained in large quantities in the fluid state, and consequently much nearer the condition required in the manufacture. Ultimately the whole adventure devolved upon Mr. Williams, to whom alone is due the merit of developing this branch of industry in Canada, as well as of pointing out the road to success in the same direction in the United States. The capital which Mr. Williams and his associates have invested in the works is over \$42,000.

At first the distillation was carried on at the wells, but latterly the percentage of loss in refining being so small (about 30 or 35 per cent.), it was deemed expedient to remove the works to Hamilton, and convey the crude oil thither in barrels. The total quantity which has been raised by Mr. Williams is about 200,000 gallons. Mr. Williams has now five wells in more or less successful operation, yielding on an average from 600 to 800 gallons per day; but the amount which the wells are capable of yielding has never been thoroughly tested, as the difficulty attending the transportation from the wells to the railway station—a distance of about sixteen miles—has hitherto restricted the yield. At first the oil flowed into the wells unmixed with water, but latterly, although the supply is undiminished, large quantities of water are associated with it, insomuch as to render it necessary to use steam pumps to drain the wells.

The success which attended Mr. Williams' operations speedily induced other adventurers to enter upon the same field; and similar oil springs having been found to exist in Pennsylvania, our excitable and speculative neighbours rushed with characteristic eagerness into the business; and detachments from the main body soon invaded the more peaceful and primitive regions of Enniskillen—probing and torturing the earth in all directions, and polluting the air and the waters with the stench and scum of the oil. The success which has attended their operations has been in many instances very fair, and in one or two highly favourable; but in the great majority of cases the lottery has turned up blanks, though there is certainly no lack of gas to buoy up the spirits of the adventurers. Mr. Williams seems to have struck the main artery, and indeed the fact of the superficial deposits