

## REPORT OF STATE SUPERVISOR OF OILS.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Dec. 1, 1892.

*To Hon. S. S. Gorby, State Geologist of Indiana:*

SIR—In accordance with the statutes providing for the appointment of a State Supervisor of Oil Inspection and Deputy Supervisors of Mineral Oils and other substances, and to regulate the sale of the same for illuminating purposes, I herewith submit my Second Annual Report for the inspection of illuminating oils for the period commencing November 1, 1891, and including October 31, 1892.

N. J. HYDE,  
*State Supervisor of Oil Inspection.*

# REPORT OF STATE SUPERVISOR OF OILS.

N. J. HYDE, STATE SUPERVISOR.

Concerning the inspection of mineral oils I have seen no reason to change or modify the instructions issued from this office March 2, 1891. They have been and are now very generally complied with.

The total number of barrels of oil inspected from November 1, 1891, to and including October 31, 1892, amounted to two hundred and thirty-four thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven (234,977). Of this number two hundred and thirty-four thousand eight hundred and seventy-four (232,874) barrels were approved, and two thousand one hundred and three (2,103) were rejected. After deducting the number of barrels rejected there remained two hundred and thirty-two thousand eight hundred and seventy-four (232,874) barrels for consumption in Indiana, which shows an increase of about twenty thousand (20,000) barrels over the preceding year. While throughout the eastern and central portions of the State is shown a decrease on account of the use of natural gas, the other portions of the State show a large increase in the consumption of oil, they not being blessed with the benefits derived from the use of gas. The following tables will show the number of barrels inspected by stations, number inspected each month and place of manufacture :

Total number of barrels inspected . . . . .	234,977
Barrels rejected . . . . .	2,103
Total number of barrels for consumption in Indiana . . . . .	232,874

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF BARRELS INSPECTED BY STATIONS.

DISTRICT.	STATION.	APPROVED.	REJECTED.	TOTAL.
1 . . . . .	Evansville . . . . .	16,134	840	16,974
2 . . . . .	Vincennes . . . . .	8,269		8,269
3 . . . . .	New Albany . . . . .	12,444		12,444
4 . . . . .	Madison . . . . .	3,462		3,462
5 . . . . .	Columbus . . . . .	1,352		1,352
4 . . . . .	Greensburg . . . . .	338		338
6 . . . . .	Muncie . . . . .	3,610		3,610
6 . . . . .	Richmond . . . . .	4,860		4,860
7 . . . . .	Indianapolis . . . . .	63,781	1,258	65,039
8 . . . . .	Crawfordsville . . . . .	3,401		3,401
8 . . . . .	Terre Haute . . . . .	8,940		8,940
9 . . . . .	Lafayette . . . . .	12,201		12,201
10 . . . . .	Logansport . . . . .	14,940		14,940
11 . . . . .	Peru . . . . .	9,571		9,571
12 . . . . .	Fort Wayne . . . . .	14,543		14,543
13 . . . . .	South Bend . . . . .	21,764		21,764
	Cincinnati . . . . .	8,823	5	8,828
	Cleveland . . . . .	11,863		11,863
	Mansfield . . . . .	3,709		3,709
	Lima . . . . .	5,398		5,398
	Toledo . . . . .	3,471		3,471
	Total . . . . .	232,874	2,103	234,977

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER INSPECTED BY MONTHS.

MONTH.	APPROVED.	REJECTED.	TOTAL.
November . . . . .	27,460	840	28,300
December . . . . .	28,254	330	28,584
January . . . . .	28,016	120	28,136
February . . . . .	21,260		21,260
March . . . . .	19,569	165	19,734
April . . . . .	14,562	120	14,682
May . . . . .	13,143		13,143
June . . . . .	9,474		9,474
July . . . . .	11,286		11,286
August . . . . .	14,917	120	15,037
September . . . . .	19,363	408	19,771
October . . . . .	25,570		25,570
Total . . . . .	232,874	2,103	234,977

The following table shows place of manufacture:

Lima, Ohio . . . . .	137,612
Cleveland, Ohio . . . . .	34,533
Toledo, Ohio . . . . .	7,343
Findlay, Ohio . . . . .	2,148
Bradner, Ohio . . . . .	419
Fostoria, Ohio . . . . .	357
Marietta, Ohio . . . . .	320
Whiting, Ind . . . . .	25,162
Oil City, Ind. . . . .	9,099
Pittsburgh, Penn. . . . .	6,468
Bear Creek, Penn . . . . .	3,420
Washington, Penn . . . . .	2,641
Freedom, Penn . . . . .	968
Franklin, Penn . . . . .	891
Warren, Penn . . . . .	600
Reno, Penn . . . . .	390
Allegheny, Penn. . . . .	295
Oak Grove, Penn . . . . .	240
Titusville, Penn . . . . .	70
North Clarendon, Penn. . . . .	60
Rossville, Penn . . . . .	40
Parkersburg, W. Va . . . . .	1,750
St. Louis, Mo . . . . .	152
Total . . . . .	234,977
Manufactured in Ohio . . . . .	182,731
Manufactured in Indiana . . . . .	25,162
Manufactured in Pennsylvania . . . . .	25,182
Manufactured in West Virginia . . . . .	1,750
Manufactured in Missouri . . . . .	152
Total . . . . .	234,977

While none of the rejected oil was positively dangerous nor explosive for illuminating purposes, it would not pass the standard test required by our State laws. This test is higher than that now used by any other State having an inspection law.

I wish to suggest the following changes in our present law, which would be the means, I think, of reducing the price of oil to the consumers, and at the same time insure equal safety for illuminating purposes. That is to strike out the Beaume gravity test of 46° to 50°, leaving only the specific gravity test of 820° to 750°, which would be from about 40° to 56° gravity by Beaume's scale for inspectors to take when making inspections.

Also, on railroad oils I would recommend striking out the words "300 flash" and insert "300 fire." I also wish to call to your notice the fact that gasoline has become such a prominent factor for household use that it would be advisable to amend our present law in such a way as to place gasoline under a gravity clause, and provide for the rejection of all grades that do not come within the required gravity.

The law is being rigidly enforced through the State, and, as a rule, manufacturers, dealers and consumers continue to yield a cheerful compliance with the provisions of the statutes. Deputy Hedden, of Evansville, was compelled to file an affidavit against one dealer in his district for selling uninspected oil in violation of section 5155 of the law, and the case is now in the prosecutor's hands. No other violations have come under my observation, and it affords me pleasure to report that so far as I have been able to learn no serious accidents have resulted from the use of Indiana legal test oils for illuminating purposes in the State. No lamps have exploded, no lives have been lost, no persons were injured, and no property destroyed within the past year. Frequent accidents, however, have come to my notice from the use of gasoline, and as the use of the same is taking greater proportions every year, accidents, losses of life and property, will increase proportionately with the consumption of the same. I would, therefore, recommend that the next General Assembly amend the present law so as to prohibit the sale of low grades of gasoline. Gasoline is a very dangerous article under all circumstances, and only the very best quality should be permitted to be sold for burning or illuminating purposes. By thus amending the law the public would be protected from the low grades which now infest the State, endangering the life and property of its citizens.

Considerable deposits of petroleum have been found at several points in the State, notably in the counties of Blackford, Grant, Wells, Adams, Jay, Huntington, Randolph, Pulaski and White. While some other counties have shown indications of oil, the above-mentioned counties have shown the greatest yield up to the present time. As near as I have been able to learn, there have been completed about four hundred (400) wells

in the above-mentioned counties. Of this number probably one hundred (100) have been abandoned as dry wells, or the quantity was insufficient to pay for the expense of pumping. The depth of the wells varies from about seven hundred (700) to eleven hundred (1,100) feet. The vigor of their development leads to the belief that Indiana will soon rank with Ohio and Pennsylvania in point of production. Already there has been constructed at Whiting, Lake County, in this State, one of the largest refineries in the world, with new additions still being added. It gives employment to upward of two thousand persons. The refinery is supplied with crude oil through large pipe lines and pumping stations, of which Indiana can boast of having one of the largest, situated near English Lake, in Starke County. While most of the oil is being pumped from the Ohio fields, it is also true that the Indiana fields are supplying large quantities from their wells. The price varies from about thirty-two (32) to forty (40) cents a barrel of forty-two (42) gallons. It is not possible at this time to form an opinion as to the limit of the territory in which oil may be found, or in what quantity. The wells vary in amount of production, some showing as low as fifteen (15) barrels, while others produce as much as two hundred (200) barrels or more per day of twenty-four (24) hours; hence no estimate can be made as to the ultimate value. But this much is known, a very valuable industry has been added to the manufacturing interests of the State as a result of the oil discoveries. The character of the oil is different from that obtained in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, but resembles that produced in the Ohio fields. A great many claim it is superior to the latter. I believe an excellent illuminating oil can be obtained from the Indiana products, equal in every respect to that procured from the oil produced in other States. An earnest effort is being made by a large number of manufacturers and others to foster the use of crude oil as a fuel. This is necessarily a slow work. From investigations I find wherever oil has been introduced the results have been most satisfactory. Some of the largest establishments in the State are using it at the present time, and I believe it is only a question of a very short time when it will be in general use, and that Indiana will produce a very large share of the crude. The following figures are, I am informed, correct, and permit an estimate of the value of the yield of the oil-producing industry of the State. The table below will show the number of oil wells completed in Indiana from July 1, 1891, to September 1, 1892, comprising the counties of Blackford, Wells, Jay, Adams and Grant, also amount of production, number of dry and abandoned wells, and the number of wells now drilling:

YEAR.	MONTH.	COM- PLETED.	PRODUC- TION, BBLs.	DRY.	ABAN- DONED.	DRILLING.
1891	July	6	258			5
1891	August	6	135	2	1	13
1891	September	15	775	5		12
1891	October	15	330	4	1	11
1891	November	14	390	3	3	4
1891	December	8	175	1	3	11
1892	January	11	342	2	2	17
1892	February	13	250	6	1	15
1892	March	18	289	6		11
1892	April	14	316	2	1	12
1892	May	17	505	3	4	13
1892	June	19	545	4		16
1892	July	17	596	2		11
1892	August	30	1,395	3	2	17
Totals		203	6,300	43	18	168

While my official duties are fulfilled when any given lot of oil has been inspected to determine its vaporizing point, I shall be glad at any time to examine any special samples with a view to determine their illuminating value, and shall from time to time make careful examinations of the products of the Indiana fields with a view of determining their value as compared with other oils, and shall embody my conclusions concerning them in the next report, which I shall have the honor to make. In conclusion, it affords me great pleasure to repeat that I have every reason to believe that the law is being enforced, and while this report shows a considerable amount of rejected oil, it will also show that the inspectors are vigilant and efficient, and dealers and manufacturers will realize that fact if they attempt to send illegal oil into this State. There have been but few deliberate violations of the law, and I am gratified to know that the law is accomplishing all that was intended by its enactment, and the consumer is more than compensated by its existence and enforcement in the saving of life and property.

To my deputies I extend an expression of my sense of appreciation of their efficiency and willingness at all times to aid and cooperate with me in my efforts to enforce the law fairly and impartially.

Respectfully submitted,

N. J. HYDE,

*State Supervisor of Oil Inspection.*