

OFFICE OF STATE SUPERVISOR OF NATURAL GAS,  
FORTVILLE, IND., April 1, 1915.

*Hon. Edward Barrett, State Geologist, Indianapolis, Ind.:*

Dear Sir—I am sending you today the manuscript of the Annual Report for the 39th Annual Report of the Department of Geology.

Thanking you for the valuable suggestions and assistance I have received from you, I am

Very truly yours,

FLOYD E. WRIGHT,  
State Supervisor of Natural Gas.

## Report State Supervisor of Natural Gas.

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The gas of the Indiana part of the field known as the Lima-Indiana has been failing for the last few years until it has gotten so weak in places that it is being replaced by gas piped into the State by the Logan Natural Gas and Fuel Company, of West Virginia. The gas is pumped into the State and reaches it with a pressure of about 125 pounds, but is reduced to a few ounces before being turned into the city lines. The following towns are using West Virginia gas:

Muncie, Anderson, Elwood, Alexandria, Fairmount, Hartford City, Marion, Newcastle, Richmond, Noblesville, Tipton, Lynn and Middletown.

The gas is being used mostly for domestic purposes, very little being used for manufacturing, and is sold to the consumer at from 30 to 40 cents per thousand.

While much gas is being piped into Indiana, there still remain 2,295 gas wells that are producing some gas and are supplying a great many of the smaller towns and farmers, on whose farms they are located, with gas. In Tipton and Howard counties, the Indiana Natural Gas and Oil Company has a great many wells, the gas from which is being piped to Chicago. There were 64 new wells drilled in the year of 1914, and 147 old wells abandoned.

The Sullivan County oil field produces enough gas in addition to that used in the field for power, to supply about 80 consumers in Sullivan.

The Oakland City oil field produces enough gas to supply Oakland City and Winslow with gas.

The remaining gas wells in Indiana have an average pressure of 74.4 pounds, and the average price per thousand for which it is sold is \$0.327.

The remaining gas wells and mains, not including the plants supplied with West Virginia gas, represent an original investment of about \$20,000,000, but in their present condition would be worth about \$1,000,000.

The Indiana portion of the Lima-Indiana oil field for the year of 1914 produced 508,987 barrels of oil from 3,796 wells; the Princeton and Oakland City field produced 151,441 barrels from 285 wells; and the Sullivan County field produced 859,500 barrels from 415 wells, making a total production for the State of 1,519,-

928 barrels from 4,496 wells, showing an increase over the production of 1913 of 549,848 barrels.

The price of oil for the last year has been such that it has not offered a very great inducement to oil operators to try to open any new fields, or to properly develop the old ones.

There are a great many counties in Indiana which oil men think are underlaid with oil, but they are waiting for the price to advance a little so that the chances for gain will be greater. Among other places looked upon with favor is the territory around Birdseye, Jasper County; Gentryville, Spencer County; Foltz, Jefferson County, and Wilkinson, Hancock County. Near Birdseye and Gentryville there were a few wells drilled a few years ago, in which there was a good showing of oil, but for the want of capital at that time there was no more drilling done. In Hancock County the oil for several years has been showing up in the old gas wells, and there have been several thousand acres leased recently with the expectation of drilling deeper for oil.

In Jefferson County there was a strong gas well drilled, considering its depth, near Foltz. The rock producing the gas is thought to be the Niagara limestone, which in itself may not be of much importance but may be an indication of something deeper at that point.

There were a few fair oil wells drilled in Shelby County, on the west edge of the old gas field in that county.

Illinois geologists claim to have traced an anticline southeast through eastern Illinois to the Indiana line, and Kentucky geologists claim to have traced one northwest through Kentucky to the southern Indiana line, and that being the case it is very evident that it will cross the southwestern corner of Indiana, covering some points already mentioned as being productive of oil.

In the territory mentioned, near Bruceville, in Knox County, there have been some light gas wells producing for several years; the Princeton field in Gibson County has been a very productive oil field; the Oakland City and Petersburg fields in Pike County have been producing oil for several years; and in Spencer County, near Gentryville, several years ago one oil and one gas well were drilled in which showed a fair flow of oil and a good volume of gas, but were not developed further for the want of capital at that time. While Warrick County is in line of the same anticline, no drilling has ever been done.

The above counties will doubtless be developed as soon as the price of oil is sufficient to offer the proper inducement to operators.

## THE SAN PIERRE OIL FIELD.

The San Pierre Oil Field, so-called in this report, includes a strip of country about twenty-five miles in length by about fifteen in width. The field proper starts south of Kouts in Porter County and extends south to the White County line, taking in parts of Porter, Laporte, Starke, Pulaski, and Jasper counties. The main field at this time is located three miles west of Wilder, part of the field being in Laporte County and part being in Porter County. This is the only part of the field that is being worked at this time. There are about twenty-five wells in this field that are being pumped, the wells being owned by one man, Mr. C. E. Russell of Laporte.

Since the beginning of the oil and gas industry in Indiana there has been more or less drilling in this field. One of the first gas wells in the State was drilled near Francesville in Pulaski County, which is in the southern part of this field. The Gifford field was at one time well known to all oil men of the State for the quality of oil found there. This field was extensively exploited in 1902-03 and was pumped for a short time, but due to the expense of operating the pumps by steam the wells failed to be a paying proposition and were abandoned in 1905 altogether.

The field now operated by C. E. Russell south of Kouts and west of Wilder was formerly drilled and a few good producing wells pumped in 1904 by an eastern oil company who abandoned their lease in 1906 due to the fact that it became too expensive to pump the wells for the output. Later Mr. Russell took up the lease and drilled a few new wells and cleaned out some of the old ones and began pumping these in July, 1914. The wells at first pumped water, but since the water is beginning to be decreased the wells are pumping a small amount of oil each day and it is expected that they will begin to be a paying proposition. At the beginning these wells pumped about 1,500 barrels of water in ten hours giving about half a barrel to a barrel and a half of oil in ten hours, compared to about 600 barrels of water with a barrel and a half to two barrels of oil in eighteen hours at the present time.

All the wells in this field are very shallow, ranging from 95 to 150 feet south of Kouts to four and six hundred feet in the southern part of the field around Medaryville, Francesville and Gifford. There have been a few deep holes drilled in Trenton rock, ranging from nine hundred to twelve hundred feet in depth.

The oil secured from these shallow wells is heavy and black

and makes a very good lubricating oil as it is, as it comes from the well, but due to the small production of each well it has never been thought to be profitable to pump these wells, yet since the gasoline engine has become such a factor in the power world it may be that these wells can be profitably operated with this kind of power, and are at the present time being used in the pumping of the wells on the Hayman lease now operated by Mr. Russell.

The Gifford field, located about two miles north and east of Gifford in Jasper County, was thought at one time to be a very valuable field, so valuable that an asphaltum company located there to manufacture asphalt. The company built a large plant and worked the field until the supply of oil became inadequate for their purpose, when the plant was abandoned. The field was first worked by several different companies but was finally consolidated into one company by Wm. Budge, who operated the field until it was finally abandoned.

There were no records kept of these early wells in this county or practically any of the wells drilled in this part of the State. The companies that were responsible for the drilling of most of the wells in this territory have long since gone out of existence and it is impossible to secure any information, as all of the records that they might have kept at that time have long since been destroyed.

Practically all wells that have ever been worked at all have been shallow wells and very light producers, very few if any at any time producing over five barrels per day. The great amount of water encountered in pumping the wells has been the cause of several of the wells being abandoned.