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OIL SUPPLY CANNOT BE MEASURED.

The Russian Field Has Been Gushing a Quarter of a Century and Increases Production Yearly.

The attention of the Enterprise has been called to an article in another paper in this city in which the writer attempts to estimate the probable supply, or amount of oil under Spindle Top. As the same paper which published this estimate, a short time previously published a report that the pressure on Spindle Top was decreasing so rapidly that the wells would have to be pumped in a short time, this article which estimates that there are only a few million barrels of oil under Spindle Top is not surprising. The Enterprise took the trouble to expose the fake report about the decreased pressure, which would necessitate pumping in a short time and it is noteworthy that almost four months have passed and that no one is pumping yet. The Enterprise does not pose as authority on oil but it does claim that it is absurd for anyone to attempt to estimate the probable supply of oil in the Beaumont field. In the first place the area of the field has not been determined and in the second place no one knows what the depth of oil sand is. Again it is probably true that there is as much oil under what is known as Spindle Top as there was before the Lucas gusher astonished the world.

In order that our readers may be enlightened as to this estimate we quote that part which measures the oil under Spindle Top.

"As regards the rock in the Beaumont field, however, it is probable that all these estimates are too low. Its texture is porous in the extreme, it is not unlikely even that it may contain cavities of no inconsiderable extent. From all data at hand, it is probable the average saturation, for the field as a whole, will approximate 24 per cent. Any estimate of the oil already drawn from the hill must of necessity be an approximation. A rough computation—oil marketed, wasted in gushing, and now in tankage—places the amount at 3,600,000 barrels. With a saturation of 24 per cent, 598,560,000 cubic feet of oil-bearing rock in the hill would contain 149,737,500 cubic feet of petroleum, which at 551 cubic feet to the barrel gives a total of 26,691,000 barrels.

At 20 cents per barrel the value of this product when extracted would total \$5,338,200.

It will be seen that the amount is not only estimated but its value is also fixed. Very naturally these figures are shocking to the average investor in Beaumont oil stocks for if they be true the J. M. Guffey company cannot hope to get back any where near the amount it has invested, even if it got all the oil, to say nothing of the Higgins, Heywood and others. As the Guffey company has decided to increase its refinery to ten times its present capacity it is fair to infer that these gentlemen who manage its business and are familiar with the oil history of the world, do not share the opinion of this estimator that there are only 25,000,000 barrels of oil to be had from the Beaumont oil field. As we have said before, the area of Spindle Top has not been determined and it will take a long time to determine the reachable depth of oil on the anticlinal which forms this field. That there is an anticlinal has been amply demonstrated and there is every reason to believe that it is very like the famous Russian field at Baku. Recent tests of the drill in this field show that the anticline on the north-east side of the field is at least forty five degrees. The same rock formation found on the Hoag-Swayne tract at a depth of 750 feet is found on the Smith tract at a depth of 1050 feet. The degree of the anticline was easily determined by a large rock core which was drilled out. Oil men in whose judgment we have confidence say that it is impossible to estimate the probable amount of oil in this field for, inasmuch as all the wells have been gushers, the saturation of the oil sand under Spindle Top is as great as it was before any of the oil was taken out for there is a pressure that is filling the sand again as fast as it flows out. This seems a very reasonable explanation and it is quite certain that the conditions here are quite different from that in any other field in the United States. After a careful study of the history of the Russian oil fields it is our opinion

that that is the only field which furnishes a parallel to the Beaumont field. We present our readers two views of the anticlinal in the Russian field and we know that it is the opinion of very conservative and experienced oil men that this and the Baku field are very much alike. If this be true then the absurdity of an estimate large or small is at once apparent. These drawings are taken from volume one, of Petroleum and its Products, by Dr. Beverton Redwood, of London, who ranks among the world's authorities on petroleum. Like this field the small producing territory of the Baku field has been so prolific that there has been little incentive to explore outside territory. The greatest producing territory at Baku, comprises about four square miles, but Dr. Redwood says that there is ample evidence to show that this petroleum belt extends from the Black Sea to the Baku field a distance of 720 miles and stretches across the Caspian Sea as a submarine range to the Balkan mountains. If this is true it is not absurd to suppose that the Beaumont field is connected with Jennings on one side and Sour Lake and Saratoga on the other, and if this is the case it is not absurd to make any kind of an estimate on the probable production. The Baku field in eleven years to and including 1889 to 1899 produced over 483,000,000 barrels of oil. We have not received the figures for 1900 but the Oil City Derrick says that the production will be greater this year than it was last. In 1889 the production was 5,409,357 barrels while in 1899 it was 64,265,965 barrels which shows that the field was not decreasing in production. Of this latter amount 51,365,545 barrels were bailed which may give some comfort to those who are worrying about the decrease in pressure on Spindle Top. We are not aware as to the experience of the gentlemen who has staked his reputation that there are only 25,000,000 barrels of oil under Spindle Top but we do know some men of experience who do not share his opinion. One of the first oil men of note to reach Beaumont after striking the Lucas gusher was Mayor Samuel Jones of Toledo, better known as "Golden Rule Jones." In October Mr. Jones again visited Beaumont and in reviewing the situation in an address said "I was in Beaumont last January the second day after the Lucas well fired the shot heard around

As the Queen of Sheba said of the glories of Solomon, that the half had never been told, so I believe that the half has never been told about the Beaumont wells." Here is the opinion of an experienced oil man who neither owns wells nor stocks and who has viewed the situation from an unselfish and unprejudiced standpoint. In our oil edition of August 20th our leading article was on the question of the probable supply of oil in the Beaumont field. The gentleman who wrote it is one of the expert chemists in the employ of one of the companies who has invested millions in the field. In that article he said: "There is no way to determine how far below the cap rock the bottom of the oil body may be. Possibly it is 1,000 feet and possibly more. This gentleman has no reason for giving anything but an honest opinion. In another column will be found an article by Mr. Arnold Newman, who has had considerable experience in the European field and he does not hesitate to express the opinion that the Beaumont and Russian fields are almost exactly alike.

Following is part of a letter written by Capt. F. M. Brown, a gentleman who has had much experience in the eastern oil fields and who views Spindle Top from a scientific standpoint. Capt. Brown was asked by President Graham of the Texas Oil and Pipe Line Co. of which Capt. Brown is field manager to give an opinion as to the permanency of the production of the Beaumont field. Among other things he said, "I consider it a fair presumption that the whole 300 acres under Spindle Top will be found to be substantially alike in yielding large oil wells, although it is true that some are and will be much larger than others, doubtless owing to the varying diameter and different degrees of the density of the oil rock. I am strongly of the opinion that the phenomena of production from Spindle Top can be accounted for only in the theory that the plateau forms the outline of the crater of a great subterranean volcano. This opinion is justified by the following facts:

First the temperature of the well is 82 F.

Second, the abundant presence of crystallized sulphur found in every well.

Third, the exoriated condition of the crystallized limestone which carries the oil in heavy saturation.

Fourth, the abundant supply of pure sulphuric acid gas which is unlike any hydro carbon gas I have ever seen, and can only be likened to the breath of a living volcano and which is almost immediately fatal to all forms of life. Under these conditions any estimate of the permanency of the production must be based upon the longevity of a volcano, a thing no man can more than conjecture. Capt. Brown closed by recommending to Pres. Graham that he need have no hesitancy in making all necessary expenditure of capital to handle a large

pay at Spindle Top we feel certain that he is satisfied that there is a great supply of oil that is being furnished there much the same as in the Russian field. How long will the gusher flow, is another question that many ask and no one can answer, but again we can find some guidance from the Russian field in presuming that the conditions in the two fields are alike. It must be remembered that the earlier of the Russian gushers were entirely unmanageable, to quote Dr. Redwood and resulted in immense waste, millions of barrels being lost. The first Russian gusher was struck in July, 1873. In 1877 a well was struck and was capped, and gave a continuous supply until 1883. We have failed to find any record in Dr. Redwood's work, which shows that any of the Russian wells have been as great as the best Spindle Top wells, though they have been of much larger diameter. We think that we have here produced evidence that shows the futility of attempting to estimate the production that the Beaumont field is capable of and that the probabilities are that 25,000,000 barrels are "only a drop in the bucket." The mind of the writer the fact that the J. M. Guffey company are preparing to enlarge the capacity of their refinery to such tremendous proportions and that Mr. J. S. Cullinan will hereafter do business in Beaumont instead of Corsicana is sufficient reason why those who have invested in the Beaumont field should not worry over the probable early exhaustion of the field. These men are most experienced and the most conservative in the oil business in this country and why they haven't the means to measure the area and saturation of Spindle Top it is evident that they are satisfied that there is plenty for some time to come. In concluding this article we wish it distinctly understood that it was not written for the purpose of booming oil stocks. It must be plain, however that such articles as we have referred to, making it appear that there is only a small amount of oil in the Beaumont field must work an injury to those who are trying to inspire fuel users with confidence that there is an ample supply of oil for all needs. The returns to investors must largely depend upon a great quantity of this oil being used as fuel and as long as the supply is in doubt it must largely be restricted to those who can make long time contracts for oil.

All The Oil News.

The Beaumont Enterprise is the only paper published which attempts to give all the oil news of the Beaumont field. It is THE ONLY PAPER IN BEAUMONT which publishes the daily oil shipments. All other papers which publish the oil shipments get their figures from The Enterprise. The news in The Enterprise is conservative and reliable. Our daily edition should be read by every one who wants daily news from the Beaumont

The Beaumont Field.

Compared With The European Field

BY ARNOLD NEWMAN.

(The writer of this article, Mr. Arnold Newman, came direct from Russia to Beaumont, after he learned of the great strike here. He has made a careful study of this field and his observations coupled with his experience in Roumania and Russia entitle his opinion to respectful consideration.—Ed.)

Ben Akiba once said that everything had already happened, meaning that there was nothing new; but were Ben Akiba here now and should behold the spectacle of a man under Spindle Top measuring the oil area with a tape line, he would say "there is something new." A few days ago I read an article in a local paper which if believed would not only work a great injury to the Beaumont oil industry but to oil interests in general. In fact it is impossible to estimate the harm such an article can do, especially when read by inexperienced people. To a man experienced in the oil business the article only occasions pity and ridicule. In his article Mr. X says that the Beaumont oil producers only have "a few million barrels—no more, no less—which can be taken from this oil pool," as he calls it, and the oil well owners "will have to hurry" to see who can get the most out of the bowl before it is all gone. Mr. X says that the oil strata under Spindle Top is only fifty-five feet thick, while as a matter of fact a few days ago some one bored sixty-six feet into the oil sand and there was not the slightest evidence to show that the bottom of the oil sand had been reached at this depth. Does it seem possible that such experienced oil men as those who control the Guffey, Higgins, National and Heywood companies would invest the hundreds of thousands of dollars they have invested, if it were at all probable that there is only a "Thread-needle full" of oil beneath Spindle Top, as Mr. X estimates? I have been here since last May, coming directly from Russia's great oil fields, and in this time I believe that I have been able to carefully study conditions here and have been able to form a conservative opinion as to the future prospects of this field. I believe that it is only a question of time when the Beaumont field will be extended in some direction, which is only a matter of reachable depth, and I draw my conclusions from my experience in the European fields. In the Baku field, in Russia, where the large

same oil strata. This place is situated on a prairie very much like the land at Spindle Top. The situation in the Beaumont field is not a puzzle to the experienced oil man from the European field. The oil fields of Roumania, Dragaenasa, Campina (where the great Roumanian gushers are) Telega, Busanari and Itoca are situated in a line about one and one-half miles apart. The proven oil field at Campina is on the south side of the town and in order to determine if the field had a parallel anticline, a well was sunk on the north side of town with splendid results, as great gushers were found. The Beaumont field is about on a line with Vinton and Jennings on one side and Sour Lake and Saratoga on the other and but to oil interests in general. In fact it is impossible to estimate the harm such an article can do, especially when read by inexperienced people. To a man experienced in the oil business the article only occasions pity and ridicule. In his article Mr. X says that the Beaumont oil producers only have "a few million barrels—no more, no less—which can be taken from this oil pool," as he calls it, and the oil well owners "will have to hurry" to see who can get the most out of the bowl before it is all gone. Mr. X says that the oil strata under Spindle Top is only fifty-five feet thick, while as a matter of fact a few days ago some one bored sixty-six feet into the oil sand and there was not the slightest evidence to show that the bottom of the oil sand had been reached at this depth. Does it seem possible that such experienced oil men as those who control the Guffey, Higgins, National and Heywood companies would invest the hundreds of thousands of dollars they have invested, if it were at all probable that there is only a "Thread-needle full" of oil beneath Spindle Top, as Mr. X estimates? I have been here since last May, coming directly from Russia's great oil fields, and in this time I believe that I have been able to carefully study conditions here and have been able to form a conservative opinion as to the future prospects of this field. I believe that it is only a question of time when the Beaumont field will be extended in some direction, which is only a matter of reachable depth, and I draw my conclusions from my experience in the European fields. In the Baku field, in Russia, where the large



Caucasus Railway) and Perin Agit Hill by black lines. The broken lines indicate Baku Field. Petroleum Bearing sand down to 1,400 feet is indicated. Anticlinal Between Puta (Trans-oil sand below 1,400 feet. This is believed by some experienced oil men to be like the Beaumont field.

the world and I gave an interview to the newspapers in which, while not claiming to be a prophet—I outlined the situation with respect to the future about as it appears to be today in the light of recent developments. I said in the first place that nothing less than an ocean of oil could produce such a well as the Lucas. Beaumont oil is a big proposition, a world proposition. When you look at a map and take the geographical location of this product to account, its availability to reach all the markets, not only along our coast but along all the coasts of the world, you get but a slight suggestion of the possibilities that the future holds in store for this product and it will only be dealt with intelligently, when it is dealt with from this standpoint. The efforts of some of the newspapers of the country to belittle Beaumont wells by publishing false reports about declining production, seems childish and peevish to any one who knows the real facts

and lasting production from this field. Another gentleman whose name we do not feel at liberty to quote, has had many years connection with the Standard Oil company and who is familiar with both the Russian and the American field, has expressed the opinion that the Beaumont and the Russian fields are very similar.

After his first visit to Beaumont he afterwards said that Spindle Top be producing oil for fifty years and he afterwards said that Spindle Top is perhaps the most valuable spot of ground in the United States. Once while inspecting a Spindle Top well in company with this gentleman the Russian field was discussed and in answer to the question if he thought that the oil which was produced from the Russian field was all under the small known territory he said, "No, there are great mountains saturated with oil supplying the Russian field constantly." While he was not prepared to advance a theory as to the sup

ply at Spindle Top we feel certain that he is satisfied that there is a great supply of oil that is being furnished there much the same as in the Russian field. How long will the gusher flow, is another question that many ask and no one can answer, but again we can find some guidance from the Russian field in presuming that the conditions in the two fields are alike. It must be remembered that the earlier of the Russian gushers were entirely unmanageable, to quote Dr. Redwood and resulted in immense waste, millions of barrels being lost. The first Russian gusher was struck in July, 1873. In 1877 a well was struck and was capped, and gave a continuous supply until 1883. We have failed to find any record in Dr. Redwood's work, which shows that any of the Russian wells have been as great as the best Spindle Top wells, though they have been of much larger diameter. We think that we have here produced evidence that shows the futility of attempting to estimate the production that the Beaumont field is capable of and that the probabilities are that 25,000,000 barrels are "only a drop in the bucket." The mind of the writer the fact that the J. M. Guffey company are preparing to enlarge the capacity of their refinery to such tremendous proportions and that Mr. J. S. Cullinan will hereafter do business in Beaumont instead of Corsicana is sufficient reason why those who have invested in the Beaumont field should not worry over the probable early exhaustion of the field. These men are most experienced and the most conservative in the oil business in this country and why they haven't the means to measure the area and saturation of Spindle Top it is evident that they are satisfied that there is plenty for some time to come. In concluding this article we wish it distinctly understood that it was not written for the purpose of booming oil stocks. It must be plain, however that such articles as we have referred to, making it appear that there is only a small amount of oil in the Beaumont field must work an injury to those who are trying to inspire fuel users with confidence that there is an ample supply of oil for all needs. The returns to investors must largely depend upon a great quantity of this oil being used as fuel and as long as the supply is in doubt it must largely be restricted to those who can make long time contracts for oil.

Mr. Arnold Newman, who contributes an article to our special oil edition, offers his services to those who wish information about Beaumont oil companies. Letters of inquiry will be promptly answered at a reasonable charge. He is competent to pass upon the wells of any company.

BEAUMONT IS HEALTHY.

We are frequently asked about the health of Beaumont and many people imagine that our city is about the most unhealthy place in the world. The writer was born and raised in the North and has only lived in Beaumont five years, but in that time he and his wife both have enjoyed better health than they ever had in the state they came from. It is true that there is sickness here, but what community is exempt? If any one will

look at the school children of Beaumont they will see as bright, handsome and healthy children as can be found anywhere. Look at some of the people who were born and raised here if you want to see perfect specimens of physical manhood. The death rate in Beaumont is very low in comparison with other places in the North and if those who come from the North will be careful of their diet and drink water in the summer time that has been either boiled or filtered they will probably enjoy as good health here as they will anywhere else.



Cross section in Baku Field, western extremity of the Balakhany field.