THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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PETROLIA.

Another Peep Into the Hidden Land.

Scientific Investigation Into Its Resources.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES.

THE VARIED USES OF PETROLEUM

Production of Fuel for Ocean Steamers.

Splendid Fashionable Colors Discovered.

Great Demand for the Article All Over the World.

The Petroleum Aristocracy the Nabobs of the Soil.

The Codfish, Anthracite, Whale Oil and Shoddy Aristocracies Cast Into the Shade.

LIST OF OIL COMPANIES.

Blubber in the Ocean at a Discount.

Freedom of the Leviathan, the Monster of the Deep.

Whales Sporting in Undisturbed Liberty.

The Oil to be Transported in Iron Pipes to Railways.

Great Improvements Going on in the Oil Country.

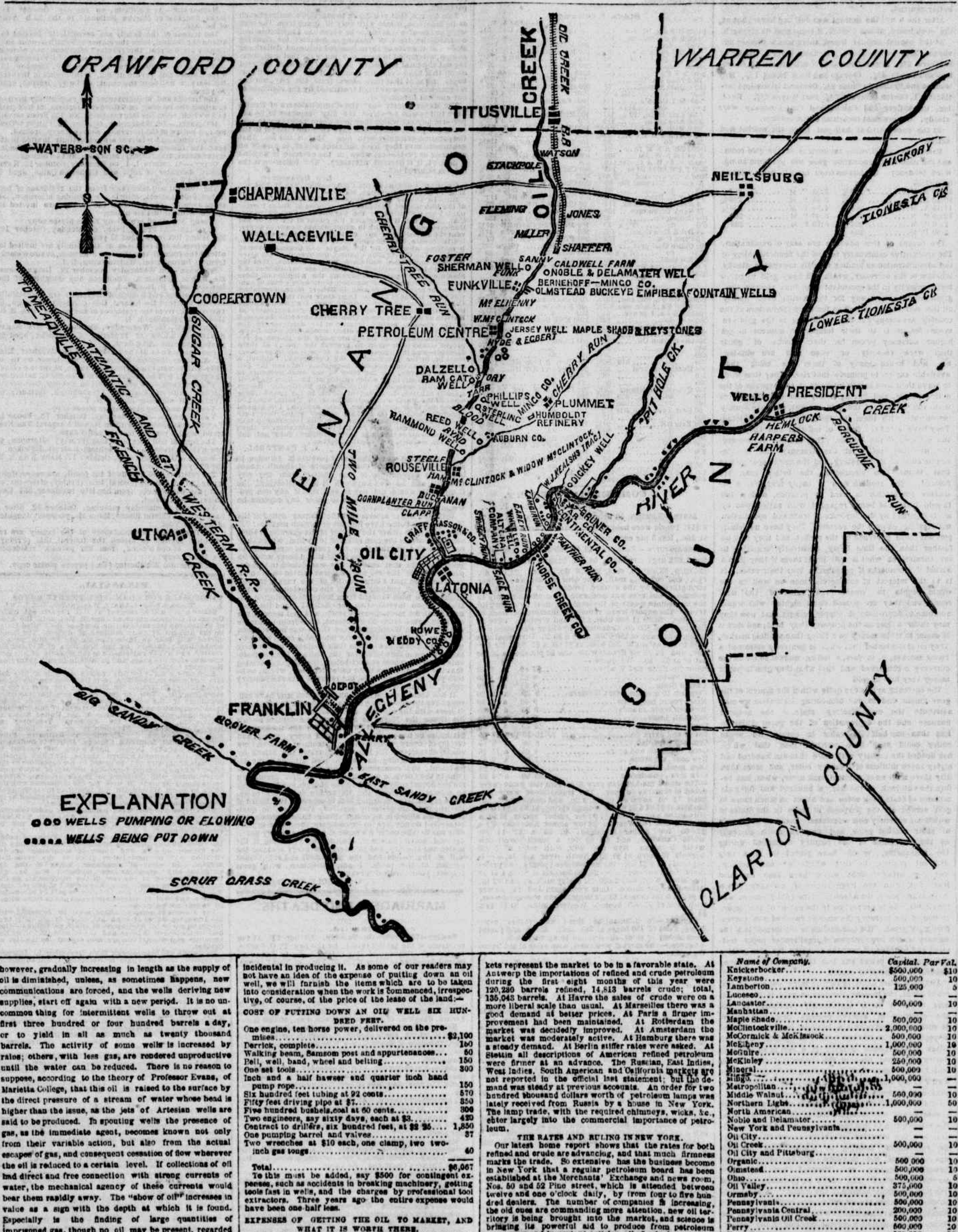
New Discoveries in Western Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Michigan and Elsewhere.

The Yankee Nation "Bound to Blaze,"

&c., &c., &c.

THE GREAT OIL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Map Showing the Locality of Well Known Farms, Flowing and Pumping Wells and Prominent Places in the Oil Creek Region---The Topography of the Pennsylvania "Oil Dorado."



We resume to-day a compilation of statistics and other interesting information from the oil region of Pennsylvania. It is accompanied by a map showing the principal points in the district, particularly that embraced in what is known as the Oil creek region, with adjacent localities. There will also be found annexed an interesting description of the oil situation in Western Virginia, together with a few facts about the discovery of petroleum in Kentucky, Western New York and Michigan. The attention of the world seems to be attracted to this valuable, and daily increasing in value, article of commerce and general usefulness and consumption. The petroleum aristocracy seems destined to be not an aristocracy of the day, but for all time; for the supply of the article appears to be inexhaustible, and the uses to which it is put as varied and of as universal utility as those of any discovery in modern times.

WHERE PETROLEUM COMES FROM—THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH SCIENTIFICALLY OVERHAULED.

The subject of explaining the phenomena of the production of petroleum has attracted the attention of scientific and practical men ever since its discovery and adaptation to the uses of society. Several theories have been advanced, but the most reasonable which we have remarked, and which has been fortified by personal investigation in the oil region of Pennsylvania, may be ascertained from the following summary of the views of the most enlightened investigators in the mysteries of this wonderful production of the earth:—

It seems certain that the principal supplies of petroleum are not diffused between the planes of stratification, but are collected in cavities more or less sunken in the strata, whence it is less liable to be carried away by running water. It is common to find large quantities in places where there are marks of disturbance and misplacement of the rocks, and those who have professionally "prospected" for oil nearly always select such spots for sinking shafts or wells. These cavities are not usually of great horizontal extent. It is seldom that two neighboring wells strike oil at the same depth, whether the strata be horizontal or dipping. It is one chance out of many to strike oil at all, even in neighborhoods where it exists in abundance—except in certain localities in the Oil creek region, where the average chances of striking oil are superior to those of other districts, with the exception, possibly, of some of the newly discovered districts in Western Virginia. But there are facts connected with oil wells, particularly their intermittent action and their interference with one another, which serve to show the existence in many cases of systems of these cavities connected together by channels of communication, more or less free, running sometimes along the strata and sometimes across them. On Oil creek the greatest quantities of oil are found in the same horizontal stratum of sandstone. It would seem that this rock is very porous, and perforated like a honeycomb with numerous cells and fissures containing petroleum. The history of many of the wells is as follows:—When oil is entered the gas begins to raise it up over the top of the boring, increasing gradually in force until it projects it into the air, often to a height of from forty to fifty feet, then alternately diminishing and increasing in force at regular intervals, but without any cessation in the flow for a long time. These variations in the force of the gas—the "breathing of the earth" as they are termed—are to be explained on the principle of supposing that, as the tension of the gas is relaxed by the removal of the oil, the gas and oil from other cavities around rush in through the pores and slight fissures till a certain maximum tension is reached, and the influx ceases; then, by the expansion of the gas already in the chamber, the oil continues to come up, but with a diminishing flow, until a relative vacuum is again created; after which the influx is renewed and gradually increases, as at the beginning. These regular alternations vary in different wells from two to three times a day to as many times an hour; the intervals, however, gradually increasing in length as the supply of oil is diminished, unless, as sometimes happens, new communications are forced, and the wells deriving new supplies, start off again with a new period. It is no uncommon thing for intermittent wells to throw out at first three hundred or four hundred barrels a day, or to yield in all as much as twenty thousand barrels. The activity of some wells is increased by rains; others, with less gas, are rendered unproductive until the water can be reduced. There is no reason to suppose, according to the theory of Professor Evans, of Marietta College, that this oil is raised to the surface by the direct pressure of a stream of water whose head is higher than the issue, as the jets of Artesian wells are said to be produced. In spouting wells the presence of gas, as the immediate agent, becomes known not only from their variable action, but also from the actual escapes of gas, and consequent cessation of flow wherever the oil is reduced to a certain level. If collections of oil had direct and free connection with strong currents of water, the mechanical agency of these currents would bear them rapidly away. The "show of oil" increases in value as a sign with the depth at which it is found. Especially is the finding of large quantities of imprisoned gas, though no oil may be present, regarded as a good indication that oil is near. A learned writer on the subject is inclined to attribute petroleum and its associated hydrogenous gases to a fermentation and distillation by subterranean heat of the hydrocarbon elements resident in all the carbonaceous strata underlying the rock oil region. Moreover, he is inclined to assign the oil and gas to the lower deposits almost exclusively, for these reasons:—First, that they come forth, and very abundantly, in large districts, far remote from any tracts of the coal formation, and where those inferior rocks are the only carbonaceous ones which underlie the surface. Secondly, that a like discharge of petroleum and combustible gases occurs in some of the other coal fields of the earth, even where their coal beds are notoriously bituminous and dangerously full of firedamp. Thirdly, there are some differences, so the chemists inform us, between these native hydrogenous products, and the genuine coal oils and their resultants, procured by artificial methods of separation. From this it is inferred that the greater portion of the oil and gas is really derived from the marine animal carbonaceous shales, and not from the vegetable beds of coal and their coaly rocks. The process of the extrication of the petroleum from the lower strata, and its accumulation in the pores, crevices and joints of the upper ones, is believed by the same learned authority to be simply this:—That during the epoch, or the perhaps successive epochs, of the uplifting of all these water-buried and water-side sedimentary strata, earthquake pulsations and other undulations of the crust formed and fixed the flexures in the strata as described, and that during the earthquake oscillations, and even after their cessation, a copious amount of the highly heated subterranean steam, the constant attendants upon earthquakes, heated the strained and ruptured rocky beds, dislodged their more volatile constituents, and carried or distilled these latter, one portion into the atmosphere and the residuary part into the interstices of the overlying cooler and less fractured strata. Upon this hypothesis we see how in those belts of the Alleghanies, where the crust was most convulsed and the rocks were most contorted and highly heated, the coal beds were actually coked into dense anthracite, and how further, from the lines of maximum, subterranean pulsation and steaming of the rocks, the volatile matters below the surface were progressively less expelled, till entering the petroleum districts the crust movements and warming were so moderate that they only sufficed to displace the tarry and gaseous matters from the underlying beds, to leave them, at least in part, in the cavities and cells and fractures of the overreaching strata.

SINKING WELLS AND THE EXPENSE.

The process and labor of boring for oil we have already described in the HERALD. But notwithstanding the obstacles in the way of obtaining possession of the hidden treasures, and which would place one of our richest resources as far out of the reach of man as the hidden treasures of the fathomless deep, were it not for machinery, oil is generally found in quantities amply repaying the expenditure incidental in producing it. As some of our readers may not have an idea of the expense of putting down an oil well, we will furnish the items which are to be taken into consideration when the work is commenced, irrespective, of course, of the price of the lease of the land:—

COST OF PUTTING DOWN AN OIL WELL SIX HUNDRED FEET.

One engine, ten horse power, delivered on the premises	$2,100
Derrick, complete	150
Walking beam, Samsom post and appurtenances	50
Bell, well, band, wheel and belting	150
One set tools	300
Inch and a half hawser and quarter inch band pump rope	150
Six hundred feet tubing at 92 cents	570
Fifty feet driving pipe at $7	350
Five hundred bushels coal at 60 cents	300
Two engineers, say sixty days, each at $3	420
Contract to drillers, six hundred feet, at $2 25	1,350
One pumping barrel and valves	37
Two wrenches at $10 each, one clamp, two two-inch gas tongs	40
Total	$6,067

To this must be added, say $500 for contingent expenses, such as accidents in breaking machinery, getting tools fast in wells, and the charges by professional tool extractors. Three years ago the entire expense would have been one-half less.

EXPENSES OF GETTING THE OIL TO MARKET, AND WHAT IT IS WORTH THERE.

The expenses of getting the oil to market, taken in connection with the onerous government tax of twenty cents per gallon on refined, ten on crude, with the various other charges, present a remunerative figure for crude after it reaches the New York market even at the prevailing low rates. The following table demonstrates the fact:—

Crude oil, sold at Story or McClintock farms, Oct. 8, 1864, per barrel of 41 gallons		$7 00
Cost of barrel or package		3 25
Cartage to railroad depot at Franklin (Atlantic and Great Western), or to Titusville (Oil creek road)		1 50
Freight to New York		3 60
Total		$15 35
Rate in New York, Oct. 11, 38 cents per gallon	$15 58	
Barrel returned (better than new)	2 50	—$18 08
Net profit per barrel		$5 27

The facilities for getting the oil to market are being gradually increased, even to the running of pipes for the transportation of oil from the wells to the termini of the Oil Creek Railroad, and the Atlantic and Great Western road; and the New York Central and the Pennsylvania Central together with the Erie and Philadelphia, as well as the New York and Erie roads, are making preparations to relieve the oil region of Pennsylvania of its immense stores of wealth. It is now carried in flats down to Pittsburg, at $1 25 per barrel less than the cost for railroad to New York. By the pipe process, it is estimated that ten thousand barrels a day can be delivered at the roads at a cost greatly less than by the present means. The oil is to be carried from the tanks at the wells, through iron pipes, on the same principle as gas is now conveyed through the streets. The pipes will have to be laid a distance of seven miles to the Atlantic and Great Western road, for the main, and branches as necessity may require. To the Oil creek road the distance will be from ten to twelve miles. Most of the rolling stock on the latter road is owned by the Atlantic and Great Western Company. While referring to this enterprising company we should state that European capitalists own a very large interest in it. The Marquis of Salamanca, from whom the thriving town of Salamanca is named, is a party largely interested. Lord Airlie, an English nobleman of wealth and distinction, and James McHenry, Esq., who has exhibited the utmost liberality and energy in prosecuting the work of completing this road to Cincinnati, (making a continuous line from New York to St. Louis,) recently visited Meadville on a tour of inspection, and expressed themselves so well satisfied with the enterprise that new branch roads were projected, one of which will be direct from Meadville to Titusville—a distance of twenty-eight miles. This will penetrate the core of the oil region, and open up a large amount of valuable oil territory. Mr. McHenry is famous for having constructed two hundred miles of this road in two hundred days, receiving a testimonial worth $15,000 for the achievement.

EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The amount of petroleum sent abroad can hardly be realized, although the exports are less this year than last. Much of it is shipped to Europe in bulk, in ships lined with zinc. About sixteen million five hundred thousand gallons more have been exported this year than in 1862. The latest reports from the London and Liverpool markets represent the market to be in a favorable state. At Antwerp the importations of refined and crude petroleum during the first eight months of this year were 120,230 barrels refined, 14,813 barrels crude; total, 135,043 barrels. At Havre the sales of crude were on a more liberal scale than usual. At Marseilles there was a good demand at better prices. At Paris a firmer improvement had been maintained. At Rotterdam the market was decidedly improved. At Amsterdam the market was moderately active. At Hamburg there was a steady demand. At Berlin stiffer rates were asked. At Stettin all descriptions of American refined petroleum were firmer at an advance. The Russian, East Indies, West Indies, South American and California markets are not reported in the official last statement; but the demand was steady at previous accounts. An order for two hundred thousand dollars worth of petroleum lamps was lately received from Russia by a house in New York. The lamp trade, with the required chimneys, wicks, &c., enter largely into the commercial importance of petroleum.

THE RATES AND RULING IN NEW YORK.

Our latest home report shows that the rates for both refined and crude are advancing, and that much firmness marks the trade. So extensive has the business become in New York that a regular petroleum board has been established at the Merchants' Exchange and news room, Nos. 50 and 52 Pine street, which is attended between twelve and one o'clock daily, by from four to five hundred dealers. The number of companies is increasing, the old ones are commanding more attention, new oil territory is being brought into the market, and science is bringing its powerful aid to produce from petroleum many new and important articles, all of which are calculated to have a beneficial effect upon mankind all over the world.

OIL COMPANIES IN NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA.

There are nearly two hundred and fifty oil and oil land companies in New York and Pennsylvania, the stock of all of which is on the market and being hawked about in placards, pamphlets and newspaper advertisements. We give below a list of the names of as many of them as our space will allow:—

Name of Company.	*Capital.*	*Par Val.*
Astor Burning Spring Land	$2,000,000	$20
Allegheny	—	—
Allegheny and Pittsburg	500,000	10
Allegheny and Walnut Bend	250,000	5
Allegheny River	75,000	1
Adamantine	500,000	10
Alcorn	500,000	10
American	500,000	10
Blood Farm	—	—
Buchanan Farm	—	—
Big Tank	500,000	5
Beacon	500,000	10
Bruner	500,000	5
Bull Creek	1,000,000	10
Briggs	500,000	10
Bleakley	500,000	10
Brilliant	2,500,000	10
Continental	500,000	10
Curtin	500,000	10
Cornplanter	1,000,000	10
Cherry Run	200,000	10
Columbia	2,500,000	10
Commercial	500,000	10
Consolidated	600,000	10
Cow Creek	500,000	5
Densmore	500,000	10
Dalzell	2,000,000	10
Dark Hollow	500,000	10
Decatur	400,000	10
Diamond	500,000	10
Excelsior	500,000	5
Egbert	500,000	5
Eagle Rock	500,000	10
Eldorado	1,000,000	5
Empire and Oil City	500,000	10
Farrel	500,000	10
Franklin	500,000	20
French Creek	450,000	10
Green Island	—	—
Germania	—	—
Globe Farm	300,000	10
Girard	100,000	10
Great Western	500,000	10
Green Hill	500,000	10
Howes Eddy	500,000	10
Hibbard	500,000	5
Highgate	—	—
Hoge Island	250,000	10
Holland	500,000	10
Hoover	500,000	10
Hope Farm	—	—
Horse Creek	500,000	50
Hosmer	500,000	10
Hughes River	500,000	10
Irving	500,000	10
Junction	500,000	10
Knickerbocker	$500,000	$10
Keystone	500,000	10
Lamberton	125,000	5
Luceseo	—	—
Lancaster	500,000	10
Manhattan	—	—
Maple Shade	500,000	10
McClintockville	2,000,000	10
McCormick & McKissock	500,000	10
McElheny	1,000,000	10
McGuire	500,000	10
McKinley	250,000	10
Mineral	500,000	10
Mingo	1,000,000	—
Metropolitan	—	—
Middle Walnut	500,000	10
Northern Light	1,000,000	50
North American	—	—
Noble and Delamater	500,000	10
New York and Pennsylvania	—	—
Oil City	—	—
Oil Creek	500,000	10
Oil City and Pittsburg	—	—
Organic	500,000	10
Olmstead	500,000	10
Ohio	500,000	5
Oil Valley	375,000	10
Ormsby	500,000	10
Pennsylvania	500,000	10
Pennsylvania Central	200,000	10
Pennsylvania Oil Creek	500,000	10
Perry	500,000	10
Pope Farm	500,000	10
Petroleum Centre	500,000	10
Philadelphia and Oil Creek	500,000	10
Philadelphia	250,000	25
Philadelphia and Tidioute Island	500,000	10
Parker	—	—
Pearson	500,000	5
Philips	200,000	5
Pit Hole	500,000	10
Pittsburg and Oil Creek	500,000	10
Quaker City	100,000	10
Rock Oil	300,000	3
Roberts	500,000	10
Reinhard	250,000	5
Reliance	500,000	10
Revenue	250,000	2½
River	500,000	10
Rock	500,000	10
Rockland	500,000	20
Rockwood	—	—
Sherman	1,000,000	10
Sterling	600,000	—
Success	—	—
Seneca	500,000	20
Standard	—	—
Story Farm	1,000,000	5
Schuylkill and Oil Creek	500,000	10
Story Centre	500,000	10
Sugar Creek	500,000	10
Sutley	500,000	10
Terregenta	500,000	5
Tarr Farm	250,000	5
Tidioute and Allegheny	250,000	5
Tipton	500,000	10
United States	—	—
United Farm	15,000,000	—
Union	500,000	5
Upper Economy	500,000	10
Venango	500,000	20
Van Buren	500,000	20
Vance Stewart	300,000	5
Westmoreland	600,000	10
West Virginia	200,000	10
Washington	500,000	20
Watson	500,000	10
Total capital of 127 companies	$88,000,000	

The two hundred and fifty companies operating in various parts of the country, represent, in the aggregate, one hundred and forty millions of dollars.

STEAM FOR OCEAN STEAMERS—NEW USES FOR PETROLEUM.

The subject of the expense of fuel for the use of ocean steamers has been an all important one whenever a line of trans-Atlantic steamers has been proposed. We learn that an ingenious mechanic of Meadville, Penn., is engaged in experimenting upon a plan to produce from naptha, or the residuum of petroleum, an article of fuel that will be used, at an immensely reduced cost from coal, for generating steam on board steamships traversing the ocean. The experiment is being practically tested at the Downer Refinery in Corry, Pennsylvania, where it was giving much satisfaction, producing a heat as powerful and regular as any ever produced from either bituminous or anthracite coal. It must be remembered that this article is produced from what was at first rejected as the dregs or useless residuum of petroleum, but is now coming into market as one of its most valuable products.

NEW COLORS FROM THE RESIDUUM.

Among the most favorite colors for silk goods, ribbons, &c., in the market, is a color produced from the residuum of petroleum and manufactured at the Humboldt refinery, near Plummer, in the Oil creek region. It is a bright and fixed cerulean blue, or perhaps a shade darker, but still as brilliant, and is called the Humboldt color. The process of manufacturing it is kept a profound secret by the discoverers, who are German chemists, and do not speak, if they understand English. No stranger is allowed to enter their works, except by special permission. It is stated that the Humboldt Company produces these colors from a combination of naptha and tar. The refinery uses twenty-six stills, and probably three to four hundred barrels of petroleum per day when running at full capacity. Another delicate and fashionable color, a light blue, called "Azurine," is produced from petroleum, as well as the now famous and popular color "Magenta," and we hear that still another color, called the "Rosina," is in course of production from petroleum. These colors are ascertained by dropping the oil in a certain state into water, by which the most beautiful hues are brought out, vieing with the discoveries of the most celebrated artists. It is confidently believed that petroleum will in some shape form one of the most valuable ingredients in combining the most charming tints ever transferred to canvass. Then there are many articles known in commerce as benzine, benzole, naptha (which is used instead of turpentine), the lubricating oils, paint oils, and we do not know how many other productions, all having a base in this wonderful treasure of the earth. The residuum has recently been purchased in large quantities by parties in Williamsburg, for some purpose not known to the public. It is also regarded with favor as a disinfecting agent, and it is said that no case of yellow fever, smallpox or other epidemic has been known to exist where it is produced in large quantities. In Italy, upon a recent occasion, petroleum was used with entire success in driving away an epidemic that was raging in a town. The objection to petroleum works being located in cities is being removed. The Jersey City Council, in which city there are a number of petroleum works, or refineries, has withdrawn its opposition to their being located within the city limits.

JERSEY CITY REFINERIES.

These refineries, seven in number—Van Sickles, Farrows, Hazen & Co., Heinrichs & Sommers, Vesta, Excelsior, Radiant, Westervelt & Co.—turn out about three hundred and fifty barrels each per week. Most of this is exported to Europe, where it is used in families, in lighting streets, and in chemical tests and operations. At eighty cents per gallon the use of this oil as a luminator is held cheaper than gas at $2 50 per one thousand feet. The necessity of trimming lamps is obviated by the use of petroleum.

RISING THE SUPERFLUOUS GAS AT WELLS.

At first the superfluous gas at the wells caused considerable annoyance; but instead of being so at this time it is turned to account in generating steam to propel the engine, boring apparatus, &c. A pipe is so arranged as to carry the gas off from the tank in a pipe into the furnace of the engine, where it is ignited, and does away with the use of coal as fuel, an expensive article in some localities.

LARGE PRODUCING WELLS.

Among the largest producing wells in the Oil creek region at one time was the Empire well, on the Funk farm. It at one time flowed three thousand barrels per day; it now produces one hundred and fifty barrels per day. The Reed well, on Cherry run, is one of the best producing wells in the region, flowing now about three hundred barrels per day: the former statement, that it was but two hundred and fifty, is pronounced erroneous. The Highgate Company, whose wells are mostly located on McElheny farm, is principally owned in Germany. The Sherman well, located on the Funk farm, yielded originally one thousand barrels per day.

IMPROVEMENTS IN TITUSVILLE AND CORRY.

In addition to the improvements going on or in contemplation at Titusville, we are informed that the Hon. Mr. Culver, just elected member of Congress, proposes to build on the site of the Eagle Hotel and other property in the vicinity, a new first class hotel, to be carried on upon first class principles. This is an improvement very much needed, as the McHenry House, Meadville, is the only hotel in the region that deserves the title of a first class house. A new depot is going up at Corry—another improvement very much needed—as there is now nothing but a batch of wretched sheds for the accommodation of the large number of passengers (many of them ladies), who are obliged frequently to await the arrival and departure of trains.

NO CHANCE FOR BLACKLEGS IN "OIL DORADO."

Notwithstanding the amount of wealth flowing around loosely in the oil region, there has been but one instance known of the presence of a professional gambler among the population. This disciple of Pharaoh was caught in some dishonest practices in Rouseville, and the way he was roused out of Rouseville was a caution to those who fear vigilance committees. The fact that a large amount of money is in the hands of the people there, or is continually changing hands, and the want of any regular police, have caused the people to combine together for mutual protection; and now no stranger can visit the region without his character undergoing a rigid scrutiny before he has been many hours in a place. They deal gently with the erring in the oil region; but the natives do not allow themselves to be humbugged or cheated by any wandering Arab from either New York, Philadelphia or Massachusetts. Honest men and fair dealers always receive a cordial welcome from the citizens of Oildom; but sharpers are invited to keep themselves scarce.

OIL CITY.

A subscription of fifty thousand to sixty thousand dollars has been started in Oil City for the purpose of building a new hotel there—a much needed improvement; and we are sure it will not be allowed to slumber by the oil nabobs who abound in that locality, and are celebrated for their public spirit.

INSPECTING PETROLEUM.

The business of inspecting petroleum is an important one, and none but those who have a practical knowledge of the business should be entrusted with the duty. The object in inspecting it is, because it will not be bought unless it is inspected and stands a certain burning test. This is essential for exportation as well as for home consumption. The trade has adopted a burning test of from one hundred and ten degrees upwards. In order to arrive at a proper burning test various kinds of instruments are used, and the inventors are all trying to get the preference. The simplest are believed to be the best. One of these in favor with inspectors is a simple tin box, four inches square. A thermometer is placed in the box, from which the heat is ascertained by igniting a cotton wick in a tube placed in a cup, or basin, filled with oil, setting in the centre of the box. The quicksilver rises, of course, according to the heat. This little instrument can be shut up and put into one's pocket. It is regarded as the simplest and quickest method of testing the oil. A child of ordinary comprehension can test by it.

PETROLEUM IN OTHER PLACES.

Besides Western Pennsylvania, Western Virginia, Northwestern New York and Ohio, petroleum has been discovered in Kentucky and in Michigan. In Kentucky the locality is in the central part of the State, and guerillas interfere with the working of the wells, as they formerly did in Western Virginia. In Michigan oil has been found in Van Buren county, limpid as vinegar, and of a similar color. They are now boring at "Burning Spring"—so called by the Indians—on Lake Michigan, with fair prospects of a handsome yield. The boring is through a white, sandy surface, not unlike that at Coney Island. The oil discoveries in Europe, the Crimea, Wallachia, &c., are comparatively unimportant when compared with those in America. Among the new companies attracting attention here, is what is called the Astor Burning Spring Land Company, who have, according to reliable surveys, a tract of seven thousand acres of the most valuable mineral and oil territory on the Little Kanawha river, Western Virginia. Other companies, whose lands are located in the same region, are also pushing their lands into market. There is a general revival all over Petrolia since the HERALD has exposed its extent and riches to the world. The whole Western Yankee nation seems to have a sub-strata of petroleum, and the petroleum aristocracy have ample assurance of a long continued if not an everlasting fountain of supply upon which to rest the basis of their title as being the newest, most unselfish and most wealthy aristocracy in this democratic land.

Petroleum in Western Virginia.

OUR WESTERN VIRGINIA CORRESPONDENCE.

RITCHIE COUNTY, W. VA., Oct. 5, 1864.

The Oil District—Geological Features—Wealth of Hughes' River Territory—Heavy Investments—Prospects, &c.

A brief sketch of the remarkable oil region of Western Virginia may not be unacceptable at this time, when petroleum is "king"—not cotton. The history of the world scarcely affords an example of the rapid rise of any article into general and commercial importance as has been that of petroleum. From a comparatively limited home trafic it has sprung into a vast foreign trade, amounting perhaps to $50,000,000 per annum. From twenty-five cents per barrel, as it was a few years since, when there was little home consumption and no export trade, it has advanced to twenty dollars per barrel, with a foreign demand which cannot be supplied. This rapid change has had the effect to run up oil stocks to almost fabulous prices, and oil land in corresponding proportion. Added to all this, the enormous dividends declared by some Philadelphia companies, have served to stimulate the oil stock and land market until sober-minded people declare the world is running mad about petroleum. The writer of this has not the oleagenous "fever," but he has been "down thar," "takin notes, and faith he'll prent them." He is still in the oil region, and sends you greeting from this greasy locale, redolent of bitumen, and luminous with carburetted hydrogen, a hurried sketch of what has been seen and heard. This is, indeed, a remarkable region. Of rough exterior, it presents inexhaustible fountains of wealth within. Everywhere around me are unmistakable evidences of the vast wealth which has so long rotted beneath these rugged hills and sharply defined valleys. Nature has, indeed, been bountiful in this particular region. She has scattered her treasure with a lavish and prodigal hand. These wild lands, which a few years ago were considered comparatively worthless, so much so indeed, that the more acres a man possessed, the poorer he considered himself, are now at fabulous prices. Wildly distorted strata and impenetrable forests now command prices of gold bearing quartz and forests of rosewood. And legitimately have those changes been wrought, for more valuable than gold mines or figured wood are the rich and large