

BIG OIL WELLS.

A String of Phenomenal Productions in the Pennsylvania Oil Country.

Some account of the phenomenally big oil wells of the country will be interesting, says an Oil City, Pa., letter to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The three largest wells over struck on Oil creek during the early development were the Maple Shade, Phillips and Noble wells. It is not known exactly which one of these wells was the largest. The production of each of them at the start was not less than 3,000 barrels a day. The Noble well did this much by actual gauge after it had been turned into the tanks and after it had been flowing on the ground for some time. It was located on the Farrel farm. The well was struck May 27, 1863, and the value of the oil actually sold and shipped from the well was \$23,000. The Caldwell well was finished on the same farm a short time before the Noble. It was flowing 300 barrels a day when the latter was struck. The owners of the Noble, learning that the Caldwell would ultimately hurt their big spouter, purchased the latter for \$145,000. This money was all realized from the Noble well within 45 days, the period in which all the payments, three in number, were to be made. The Caldwell flowed regularly for two months and then dried up completely.

The Maple Shade well was struck Aug. 5, 1863, on the Hyde & Egbert tract, near Petroleum Center, seven miles above Oil City. The net earnings of this well are given by Dr. A. G. Egbert of Franklin, Pa., one of the owners, as \$150,000. The Phillips well was located on the Tarr farm, Oil creek, and was struck Nov. 14, 1861. It commenced to flow at the rate of 3,000 barrels a day. The total production of the well is estimated to be between 750,000 and 1,000,000 barrels.

The Empire well on the McElhenry farm, near Rousseville, flowed 2,200 barrels a day for some months. The Bradley & Son, of Clay land, had a contract by which they were to receive a month's product of this well for \$500. They received the oil for contract, and it was a fortune purchased for \$500.

The Sherman well, on the Foster farm, Oil creek, was struck in March, 1862. It started off at 1,300 barrels, and produced \$1,700,000 worth of oil in three years.

These comprise the largest "gushers" of Oil creek, but they have been eclipsed by wells struck since in other territory.

The largest well ever struck in the Pennsylvania regions is undoubtedly the Semple, Boyd & Armstrong, at Thorn Creek, Butler county. Its production for a few days was equal to the combined production of the three largest wells on Oil creek, or nearly 10,000 barrels a day. Two days prior to this it had been reported through the oil sand and dry. But when it began flowing at an extraordinary rate, flooding all the adjacent lands. The gas and oil burst from the well with a roar that was heard for several miles. While this great well was unbridled and flowing into the air to the height of over 100 feet the scene was one of the grandest ever witnessed in the oil country. As soon as possible, but after a great deal of difficulty and danger to the workmen, the well was brought under control and the oil turned into tanks. After the well had been flowing on the ground for some time its actual yield in the tanks was at the rate of 9,600 barrels a day. The total yield of this well was not so large as many others, but it stands unchallenged as to largest well in Pennsylvania for a single day's production.

The Boss well on the Parker farm, between Petrolia and Brady's Bend, Butler county, was struck July 18, 1874. Its production for the first day or two is estimated at 4,000 a day. After it was turned into the tanks it gauged 3,000 barrels a day. The Lady Hunter was located near the Boss and had daily received 1,500 barrels. It produced longer than its big neighbor and was the better well of the two.

Washington county has produced some phenomenal wells. John McKeown has opened up several that flowed from 1,500 to 5,000 barrels a day. Mr. McKeown's income from his wells at one time was as high as \$25,000 a month. He has a well in Washington county that has yielded him \$3,000,000. McKeown landed at Castle Garden a poor emigrant about the time the oil excitement broke out on Oil creek.

Ohio has produced some very large wells, three or four having records of from 5,000 to 10,000 barrels a day. These hardly equal the largest wells in Pennsylvania, as the oil is worth but 15 cents a barrel. The wells at Pithole were not exceptionally large as oil wells go, but they created a furor that has never had a parallel in the oil country. The United States well, the first struck at Pithole, January, 1875, never did over 800 barrels a day. Then followed the Grant well, with a product of 200 barrels a day. This was Pithole's largest well.

A Bridge Over the Behring Straits. From the St. James Gazette.

In an age which has seen a fourth bridge an account of a proposed bridge from England to France discussed and designed there is nothing very novel or extraordinary in the project which is receiving serious attention in Russia of bridging over the Behring Straits. The narrowest part of the gulf which separates Siberia from Alaska is only ninety-six kilometers (little more than sixty miles), and it so happens that there are islands in a straight line which would serve as points of division in the bridge and reduce each portion to a length considerably less than that of the proposed channel bridge. The compensating advantage to be gained by a work of such huge expense is not very obvious, though there needs must be something attractive in a scheme which, if carried out, would seem to bring nearer the day when it may be possible to make the circuit of the globe on foot. But if, as we are told, the supremacy of the world in years hereafter is to be divided between Russia and America, it might be better for general all peace if the sea remained unbridged.

An Officer's Wife's Home. United Service: "Where is your home?" asked a lady, who was a visitor at a military post of one of the officers' wives. "With my husband," promptly replied the wife. "Oh, yes, of course," said the lady, "but I mean in what part of the country?" "I have no home," the wife sadly answered. "I was born at a military post which no longer exists. My father and mother are both dead, and if my husband was to die to-morrow I do not know where in this broad land of ours I should go. I have been so long on the frontier with my husband, feeling that all I could claim of home was with him, that I have grown out of the recollection of those even whom I became acquainted at school."

Machine for Buttering Bread. From the New York Star.

There seems to be no limit to the ingenuity of man. The latest and most unique invention that I have heard of is a machine for buttering bread. It is used in connection with a patent bread cutter, and is intended for use in prisons, workhouses and other reformatory institutions. There is a cylindrical shaped brush

which is fed with butter, and lays a thin layer on the bread as it comes from the masher. The machine can be worked by hand, steam or electricity, and has a capacity of cutting and buttering 750 loaves of bread an hour. The saving of butter and bread and the decrease in the quantity of crumbs is said to be very large.

A Finished Artist. From Munsey's Weekly. Wife—John, you're drunk again! Hubby—No m'dear; only r-bearin' 'm go n' on amateur stage ash drunken man, 's at's all. Wife—Well John, you don't want to waste your talents on an amateur stage any longer. You want to seek a professional engagement at once.

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