

In the Oil Fields

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SPLENDID OUTLOOK FOR OIL INDUSTRY

Hard to See How the Price Can Be Prevented From Moving Up.

DEMAND LIGHT NOW

But Warm Weather Will See the Demand Become Larger Than Ever.

The completion of over one thousand wells in the month of April did not materially help the production of the Mid-Continent field and it is safe to say that less than fifty thousand barrels of new production was added to the field's total.

Johnson and Skelton are drilling at 409 feet in their No. 2 in section 1-12-14. The Pierce Oil corporation test in section 16-12-14 has a small showing of gas at 1,620 feet.

Chapman and others are spudding in a test in the northwest corner of the northwest of section 24-17-10.

The Staple Oil company No. 10 on the F. N. Holland farm in section 17-25-14 is good for 20 barrels.

The Wolverine Oil company's No. 14 on lot 169 in section 22-24-11 is making 50 barrels.

The Gypsy Oil company's test on the Bantka farm in section 6-13-7 is drilling at 1,439 feet.

The Prairie Oil & Gas Co. is rigging up for its test on the Mary Alexander farm in the southeast of the northeast of section 9-12-11.

The Savoy Oil company is rigging up for its test on the August Tucker farm in the northwest of the southeast of section 22-14-11.

Kelsey and McMahan expected to shoot their test in the northwest of the southwest of the northwest of 19-15-16 in seven feet of sand found at 1,267 feet. It was showing for a 10-barrel natural well.

The Gypsy Oil company's test in 1-6-12 is shut down at 360 feet.

Forbes and others have a rig up for a test on the Vann farm in 20-14-19.

Stein and Musselen have a rig up for a test in 23-14-19.

advance last August the wildcaters began to get busy. And more wildcat tests were started at one time than before in the history of the Oklahoma fields. The results, however, have been so uniformly disappointing that already there is a cessation in the number of rigs being built over wildcat tests.

The one great incentive in making the wildcat get out and hustle has been an advance in the market for his efforts on the present market have been futile. And it looks as though it would take more than \$1.55 per barrel to get him started again.

The closing of the export market to the refiners of Oklahoma and Kansas the past five or six weeks has also had its effect. And as the result, there has been a lot of domestic gasoline moved but at a very low figure as compared to the prices that were obtained a few months ago.

For domestic consumption the 60-61 gravity has the call and prices as low as 17 cents have been offered for this grade. Of course the prices are for tank car lots. The refiners already see a stiffening of the market and it would be surprising if there was not an upward movement in this product before very long.

It is true that on old contracts better prices prevail. But it is understood that most of the contracts expire shortly and it is hardly likely that new contracts will be made on the basis of the old unless something unforeseen happens.

Kerosene is quoted from 3 1-4 to 3 3-4 cents, but the demand for that product is light.

Many of the refiners are purchasing production wherever available, apparently fortifying themselves for the expected advance in crude before the year is out.

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More Dry Holes and More New Work Featured the April Report

A small increase in the number of completions, a large decrease in the new production credited to the wells, although Oklahoma and Kansas lead in the amount. During April 2,970 wells were completed in all fields, an increase of 207 over March. The new production credited to the wells amounted to 24,228 barrels, a decrease of 27,082 barrels. Failures numbered 382, an increase of 44. There were 108 gas wells completed, 37 fewer than in March. At the close of the month the new work shows a total of 2,771, a gain over March of 592, and the largest number ever recorded in these reports. The new work was made up of 759 rigs, which was a decrease of four, and of 2,211 drilling wells, an increase of 586. The largest previous report of new work was 2,280 in April, 1914, two years ago, and at that time it was expected that the coming months would add to it. Instead there was a gradual falling off owing to the over-production at Cushing, and the conditions which followed the breaking out of the war later.

There was a large increase in the number of productive oil wells. Subtracting the failures and gas wells from the total completed leaves 1,539 as the producers, with an average of 69 barrels each. In March the number was 1,282, with an average new production of 109 barrels to the well. In January the 1,208 producers averaged 136 barrels, and in February the figures were 1,165 and 124 barrels, respectively. The figures for April make the best showing for several years, so far as the small number of dry holes and the many oil producing wells is concerned, although the average amount per well is far below that of any month of the past three years.

The greatest interest in field operations centers around the wildcat prospects in Oklahoma and Kansas, and the development of the new pools opened there. Kansas probably is more exciting than its sister state, owing to the new pools in Butler county, but not so much is expected from that territory as from that to the south which has proven to be so much richer in the past. Kansas has now the largest daily production ever credited to the state, the amount being about twenty thousand barrels daily. Wildcat operations are also extending across along the belt line to the northeast almost to the Nebraska line. During April 251 wells were completed in Kansas, with an initial production of 9,928 barrels. The increase was 55 wells over March, and 3,395 barrels. Of the completions 47 were failures, which was a small number out of the total. At the close of the month new work amounted to 447, an increase of 91, and by far the largest number ever known in the state. In Oklahoma 806 wells were completed, with a new production of 41,011 barrels. Of the completions 145 were dry. Many of these failures were at locations which were looked upon as almost sure. The new developments about Stone Bluff and Hoyton were responsible for sev-

eral, as was that at Shamrock. The latter is now looked upon as an extension of the Cushing field, and a connection between the two is expected. All this new territory has proven rather spotted and uncertain. Several fair showings, which may lead up to pools, were reported in wildcat wells during the month, and their value remains to be determined. The territory around Hamilton is being given a thorough testing, and an extension has been discovered to the northeast. At the close of the month there were 1,563 rigs and drilling wells in Oklahoma, an increase of 231 over the previous month.

Texas Panhandle had only six more completions than in March, but the larger wells caused an increase of 1,749 barrels in new production. This division was favored by getting only seven dry holes. An important well to the northeast of Strawn makes an important addition to that field. Electra and Burkburnett provided several large producers and new sands were found. The wildcat work is as active as ever. At the close of the month this division had 175 rigs and drilling wells, an increase of 16.

North Louisiana made a poorer showing than for several months. Only 29 wells were completed, a decrease of 18, and the new production was 3,940 barrels, or 8,615 barrels less than in March. Eight of the completions were dry. At the close of the month 126 rigs and drilling wells were reported, a decline of eight.

Gulf coast pools failed to obtain any of the gushers in April, which have been prominent in the last four reports from that division. Humble, which has furnished most of the gushers from its new deep sand, had 47 completions in April, of which 14 were dry. The remaining 33 were credited with 18,440 barrels. Last month the gulf coast reported a new production of 81,964 barrels, while this report gives it a credit of 39,693 barrels, or a decrease of 51,871 barrels. More than one-fourth of the completions in this division was dry, the number being 34. At the close of the month there were 285 rigs and drilling wells, a dropping off of 16.

In the fields east of the Mississippi there was only routine work and no important additions were made to the producing territory. Through the central west bad roads and rain checked operations and are reported to have seriously affected the work expected to be done. No large wells were discovered, nor any prospects of new fields. Even under the unfavorable conditions work shows a considerable increase, both in completions and that under way at the close of the month. In completions central Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were the only division that had fewer than in March, while in new work Lima and central Ohio failed to make as good a showing.

Pennsylvania fields were active although the results were small in addition to the production. During April 446 wells were completed, with a new production of 2,113 barrels, the increase being 78 wells and 1,470 barrels. Of the completions 88 were failures and 52 gas wells. At the close of the month the rigs were 225, the same as at the end of March, while 516 wells were drilling, an increase of 118.

Less work is being done in the gas fields of Ohio, and especially in Cleveland and in consequent operations in the central west are lessening. In April this district completed only 27 wells of which seven were dry, 19 were gas wells, and the same number of oil wells. The latter were mostly in Hocking county, where several good producers were found near the old gas territory. A decrease of two in new work is reported.

Idaho reported 62 completions for April, with a new production of 859 barrels, an increase of 15 and 117 respectively. New work at the close of the month showed a decline of seven. Indiana was featureless, except in having 13 dry holes out of 22 completions.

Kentucky is active in the two pools of Irvine and Scottsville, and in wildcat operations extending all over the state. There was little change in the figures of completed work, but new work shows an increase of 22. Illinois had 26 fewer completions than in March, with a decrease of 1,283 barrels in new production, which was practically cut in two. The western part of the state is coming in for more testing, and extra efforts will be made this summer to discover more of the pools which are believed to exist there. There was an increase of 43 in new work at the end of April. Unlike March when there were changes in the crude market quotations almost every day, April passed without a decrease or advance being reported in any field. Several of the western refiners notified the producers they would cease paying premiums which had been common for several months, but there was no change in the posted quotations—OJ City Derrick.

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