

Increasing Interest Manifest In Rangely Field Possibilities

DENVER.—Indications are that the Rangely oil field in north-west Colorado is developing into one of the major oil areas of the nation. Some informed oil men are inclined to hazard estimates that the Rangely field will go far beyond the 100 million barrel mark.

Long known for its production of crude Pennsylvania type oil from shallow depth, the Rangely district has become an important producer of paraffin-asphaltic base petroleum during the past few months.

Shallow Wells Produce

At Rangely, the shallow oil obtained at depths of from 700 to 900 feet below surface is not accompanied by gas pressure and the wells have been pumped for years. Most of the wells are "emptied" each day in short pumping periods but fill up overnight and are ready for pumping again each morning. This refilling appears to be capillary in nature.

Veterans in the district are of the opinion that the shallow oil ascends through the calcite filled cracks in the formation. One pioneer contends that the calcite purifies the shallow oil to its Pennsylvania grade. Average production per shallow well is about 30 barrels a day and at present the daily output from all the shallow wells is from 2500 to 3000 barrels.

Tap Weber Sands

The Weber oil bearing sandstone is encountered at a depth of about 7500 feet below surface in the Rangely district. It is 700 feet or more in thickness—an extremely thick oil sand. After the initial flow from this sand is put under control, drilling continues for some 600 feet in order to penetrate the deepest practicable source of oil.

Sensible regulations obtain in the Rangely field. Wells are drilled in the center only of each 40 acre lease or fee, and free flow of oil is avoided by the practice of balancing gas pressure to output in the effort to maintain steady flow for the estimated life of the field so as to avoid having to pump the wells.

One specialist thinks the field is good for 30 years. At this time discharge lines as small as quarter-inch are used in the producing wells. The producing wells deliver from 300 to 450 barrels a day.

Nine Wells Produce

A recent visit to the Rangely district disclosed the fact that nine wells are producing oil, with others

expected daily as a result of drilling in progress with 20 or more modern rotary drilling rigs. Total production at present depends upon the availability of oil trucks which deliver the oil to the oil pipeline at Craig, Colo. The Utah Oil Refining Co. is preparing to build a 10-inch line from Rangely to the main line at Wamsutter, Wyo.

Companies Listed

In addition to several small companies and lessees, the following companies are operating in the Rangely field:

Associated Oil Co., California Co. (Standard of California), California Oil Groups (A. C. McLaughlin et al.), Equity Oil Co., Husky Refining Co., Newton Oil Co., Phillips Petroleum Co., Raven Oil Co., Stanolind Oil & Gas Co., the Union Pacific Railroad Co., Utah Southern Oil Co., and Wasatch-Idaho-Sharpless (Wasatch Oil Co.).

While new wells continue to come in in the Rangely field, now considered to be about 8 by 4 miles in area, some major companies have been and are conducting geological, geophysical, gravity and seismic surveys on the surface to the northwest, reaching into Utah to a point west of the asphaltic rim to the west and northwest of Vernal. This work is conducted to identify "key" formations where the geology is covered up by surface waste and sediments.

In addition, the General Petroleum Co. is prepared to drill about 20 miles south of Rangely, close to the Utah line.

Total supply of oil available to the United Nations as a group, including Russia, during 1944 was 6,887,000 barrels per day.

E. Byers Emrick
CONSULTING GEOLOGIST
OIL—NATURAL GAS
Examinations, Reports, Appraisals
Estimates of Reserves
Seismic Surveys
United States and Canada
Residence CONRAD Office
Phone 188 MONTANA Phone 190

New Stanolind Pipeline Gives Outlet to Fields in Wyoming

CHEYENNE, Wyo.—The State Public Service Commission has granted authorization for construction of one of the biggest 1945 Wyoming pipeline projects.

The board granted the Stanolind Pipe Line company a certificate of public convenience and necessity to build 68 miles of eight-inch pipeline and 27 miles of six-inch pipeline in Central Wyoming for transportation of crude oil.

The authority covers a pipeline from Maverick Springs, Steamboat Butte, Pilot Butte and Winkleman Dome, near Riverton, to a junction

near Lysite with an Elk Basin-Casper pipeline.

This certificate also permits construction of a line to take off from the main pipe and terminate at Riverton to furnish crude oil for a Husky Refining company refinery.

When you are down and out something usually turns up . . . your friends' nose.

Is the Oil Industry To Be "Atomized?"

All the potentialities of an atomic bomb are inherent in some recent developments in Washington, as far as the oil industry is concerned.

Most oil men know that congress, continued for three more years the administration's authority to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements. Or, in plain English, to slash the import duties on foreign crude oil, among other things.

What most oil men do not fully realize, however, is that congress also wrote into the act permission for the state department to further reduce tariffs by 50 percent of the rate that was in effect at the beginning of 1945. Thus the new secretary of state has more power than any of his predecessors.

The normal duty on imports of foreign oil was 21 cents a barrel. In 1939, an agreement with Venezuela cut the rate to 10½ cents a barrel—and this rate cut automatically applied to imports from all other "favored nation" countries. Now, Secretary Byrnes, if he sees fit, can again slash this tariff by 50 percent, or down to 5¼ cents a barrel.

Until 1943, the amount of crude that could be imported was limited to 5 percent of domestic refinery runs during a preceding year. Today there is no such quota.

So, if Byrnes wishes, he may cut the tariff to 5¼ cents a barrel, and allow unlimited amounts of foreign crude to enter this country. The 5¼-cent a barrel is a ridiculous figure, and so is the 10½ cents now in effect.

The road is wide open to tremendous imports of peon-produced foreign crude oil, with the blessing of congress, and with the tariff so low as to yield little in revenue to the nation, and to be absolutely no barrier to unrestricted importation.

If you, as an oil producer, are interested in this situation with its ruinous implications, it is suggested you clip this ad and send it to your congressman, with suitable comment.

This advertisement is one of a series, sponsored by Montana independent oil producers, to acquaint the producers with facts vital to their welfare, and from time to time to acquaint the public with some of the problems now confronting this vital industry. These advertisements will be continued throughout 1945.

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You Need This Map . . .

(If you are interested in any aspect of the Montana oil industry.)

This complete and newly revised map, a very clear white print, 50 by 36 inches, gives at a glance information that otherwise would require weeks of research. And—the information is CORRECT! Every well shown on the map has been checked against well logs on file with the Montana Oil Conservation board. Here's the information contained on this map:

Location of all producing oil and gas fields.

Location of all principal anticlines.

Location of every wildcat ever drilled in the state, including name of the well, depth to which it was drilled, section in which it was drilled, and results obtained, as indicated by symbol.

County boundaries and county seats.

Township boundaries.

Two cross sections showing geological formations, one taking in the area from Glacier Park eastward through Bowdoin dome, the other taking in the section eastward from the Elk Basin field through the Baker-Glendive anticline.

This map may be seen at our office. Price \$5.25 for paper, \$8.75 on linen backing.

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518 First Avenue South

Great Falls, Mont.