

Oil Fields of Mexico Yield Vast Amount

(Copyrighted, 1913, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

The AMPICO wells will soon be the chief oil port of the world. It lies in the heart of the lands which are now producing 200,000 barrels of petroleum a day, and great oil tanks are being put up which will hold a supply of millions of barrels. Tampico is situated on the coast, half way between Vera Cruz and the Rio Grande river. It lies near the mouths of the Panuco and Tamesa rivers, and it has a harbor so deep that the biggest ocean steamers can land. The wharves and jetties and other harbor improvements were designed and built for the Mexican government by American engineers, and they have cost millions.

The port is 2,000 miles from New York, 4,000 miles from Liverpool, and a little more than 5,000 miles from Hamburg, and tank steamers will soon be carrying oil from here to all parts of the world.

Who Own the Wells.

The rivers, which join just above Tampico, flow through the oil fields, and during the last year eighty steel tanks have been built on their banks, all being on deep water. About thirty of these tanks belong to the Pearson syndicate or Mexican Eagle Oil company, and the rest are owned by British syndicates, backed by the Pearsons, who have also large interests in Mexican railways, electric plants and mines. Its oil branch has a paid-up capitalization of \$5,000,000, and the market value of the stock is twice that amount. It has altogether more than a half million acres of oil land.

The Waters-Pierce company was until lately a branch of the Standard Oil company. It has large interests, including storage tanks on the coast, and then we have the Mexican Petroleum company, which is largely controlled by California oil men. It has an authorized capital of \$50,000,000, and it owns something like 700,000 acres of land, much of which is still unexplored. One of the Mexican Petroleum company's wells has been producing for more than two years, and although only partially opened it turns out 25,000 barrels of oil a day. This company is now erecting storage tanks near Tampico, while the Texas company is doing likewise on a tract of land of about 1,000 acres opposite this port. The latter company has already constructed a temporary wharf and is shipping oil to the United States ports.

The New Oil Territory.

These new oil fields extend for hundreds of miles along the Mexican gulf. The profitable wells are scattered all the way from here to Vera Cruz and farther south and on the isthmus of Tehuantepec. The exact width of the territory is not defined, but they are striking oil sixty miles back from the sea, and the region in which the prospecting is going on is said to be about as large as the state of Illinois and over a distance twice as large as the state of Massachusetts. Wells have already been sunk. In many places oil has been struck at 400 or 500 feet, but the best wells are much deeper, and the great gushers have come from a depth of 1,500 or 2,000 feet.

Big Mexican Gushers.

Take, for instance, gusher No. 4, or the Potrero del Llano No. 4, which has a capacity of 100,000 barrels a day. That well belongs to the Pearson syndicate, and I have just had a talk with one of the engineers who has to do with its working. The hole was bored three years ago. When the oil was struck it burst forth in a great stream which rose to a height of 400 feet, and it continued to spout for more than three months before it could be controlled. During that time it was pouring forth petroleum at the rate of 5,000 barrels an hour, and it covered the whole country with oil. It covered the rivers and lakes, and contaminated the streams. Thousands of cattle were lost from the fact that the oil covered their grazing places and they could not get fresh water. Acres of oil flowed out to the sea, and the Mexican gulf had a coating of oil for 300 miles along this part of its coast.

Lake of Oil.

In their efforts to save the oil the Pearson dug a lake or reservoir covering several acres and ran the petroleum into it. The lake had a capacity of over 5,000,000 barrels, and it took just twenty-eight days to fill it. That lake is still full of oil, and there are guards who watch it day and night for fear of fire. The vegetation about the shores has been killed back to a distance of 500 feet, and the electric lights are kept burning every night to aid in guarding the oil. I am told that the oil is fast deteriorating. Some of it is being used for a great deal when the time comes for it to be exported or sent to the refineries.

The Great Gusher is Now Under Control.

The engineers succeeded in putting on caps after this flow of three months, and it is now connected with a pipe line which carries it off to the tanks and the coast.

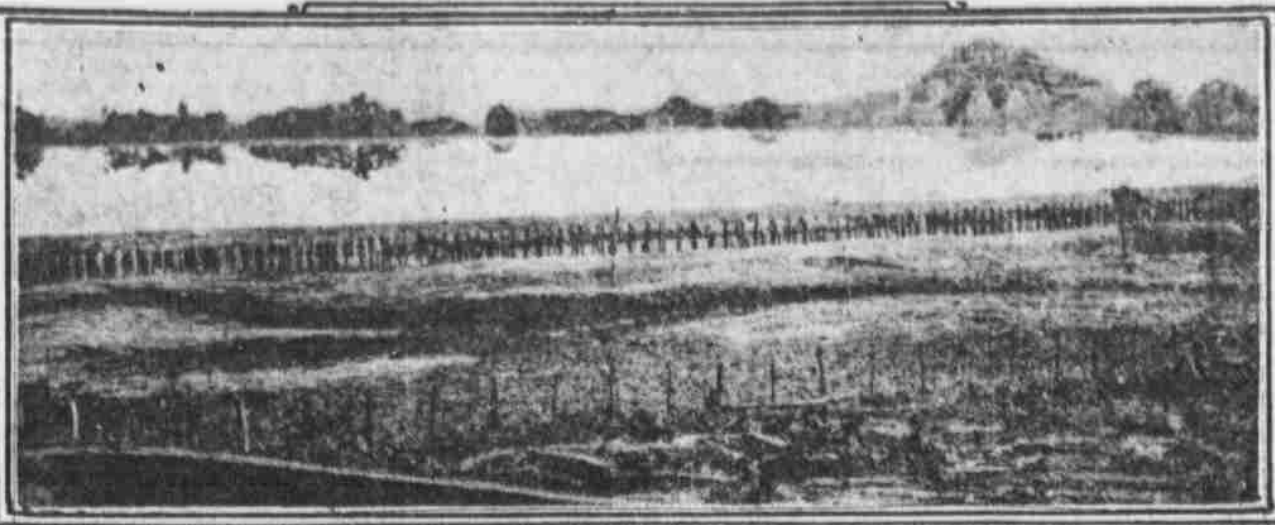
Oil Flame Two Thousand Feet High.

Another enormous gusher was the Dos Bocas, near the mouth of the San Gerónimo river, sixty-seven miles south of here. This was struck at 1,800 feet on July 4, 1910, and it produced the greatest fireworks that have ever been seen on Independence day. The oil came forth at the rate of about 4,000 barrels an hour almost immediately, and it caught fire from the boiler of one of the engines. It then sent up an enormous column of smoke and flame, which reached, it is said, a height of 2,000 feet, the flame measuring from forty to seventy-five feet in width. That flame lasted for over two months, and at night it could be seen for more than 50 miles away on the Mexican gulf. It illuminated the whole country, and newspapers could easily be read at midnight at a distance of seventeen miles away. It has been estimated that something like 100,000 barrels of oil were daily consumed before the fire was put out.

An enormous amount of money was spent in the efforts to shut off this Dos Bocas well. The owners tried everything to extinguish the flames, but it was only when the salt water of some subterranean channel broke through that they were choked. This water became mixed with the oil and ruined the well. I am told the oil still flows and that there is a lake of oil and water there which is hot now, although the fire itself has disappeared.

Another well is the Casiana well, which produces 24,000 barrels a day, and scattered over the field are other wells which are running from 500 to 1,500 barrels a day.

These are not fair stories. I have before me a report of the United States geological survey as to the big gusher of 100,000 barrels daily capacity. It was drilled under the supervision of Dr. C.



Great Oil Lake near Tampico which contains 3,500,000 barrels of oil



Casiano Wells which send to Tampico 24,000 barrels daily

W. Hayes, who formerly belonged to the river, and he had left the discouraged drillers, two days before it was struck, for a trip into the country. As he went away on his mule he told them that they would probably reach oil within twelve feet or more. He had only gone fifty miles and the drill had gone down seven feet when the oil and gas threw the tools out of the well and it began to flow at a 10,000-barrel rate. It steadily increased. Within twenty-four hours the flow was 20,000 barrels. The next day it was 30,000 barrels, and the gain continued until it reached 100,000 barrels, after which it subsided to its present flow, which it has kept up for three years. The well has a pressure of over 800 pounds to the square inch and is now controlled by eight-inch pipes which carry it off to the tanks.

This is said to be the largest oil well of history. The Lucas gusher at Spindletop, Tex., flowed 75,000 barrels a day for a day or two, and the production of some of the Russian wells is reported at slightly over 100,000 barrels, but none has approached the yield of big gusher No. 4.

Great Subterranean Oil Lake.

The Potrero del Llano, or big gusher, is supposed to have tapped a mighty subterranean lake of oil which lies something like 2,000 feet below the surface of the earth and is capped by a solid shell of stone 200 feet thick. The stone shell does not require iron casing, and it so protects the reservoir that the top can never cave in.

This is said to be the first well of the kind which has ever tapped a lake of petroleum beneath a solid rock capping. All the great wells of Russia and California have been in dirt formation, and they have had trouble with cave-ins, fires and other handicaps before they could be controlled and their flow cared for. This was the case with the Dos Bocas well, which, as I have written, caught fire and was destroyed also by the salt water rushing in. Even should the big gusher take fire it would form only a thin column of flame, which could be extinguished above the surface and the flow of oil preserved.

The big gusher is supposed to come from an entirely different field than the Dos Bocas, and there appears to be no connection between the giant reservoir which feeds it and that which supplies the Dos Bocas. The pressure of the lake must be enormous, as may be seen when it is remembered that it threw a column of heavy crude oil as big around as a nail keg more than 300 feet into the air.

Streams of Gold.

Oil wells like these are very streams of gold. I am told that the oil as it comes forth is worth here in the storage tanks about 50 cents a barrel. At 50 cents a barrel, the big gusher, if it could be allowed to blow at its full capacity, would realize \$5,000 a day, or more than \$2,700 every hour, or between \$40 and \$50 every minute, day and night all the year through. That is one kind of gold that old mother earth is now spitting out in this part of the world. It is a pity that the big gusher belongs to the British.

The same Pearson company has large interests all over Mexico. It has oil wells on the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and it pumps that oil to its refinery at Minatitlan, where there is a branch of the Tehuantepec National railway. That oil is intended for the export trade, its situation giving it easy access to the Pacific ports through Salina Cruz, while tank steamers on the Atlantic side can be loaded at its own wharves.

I am told that they are now loading steamers which cannot cross the bar at Tampico, near here, by running six-inch pipes out into the sea to where the water has a depth of sixty feet. Here the tank steamers can catch up the flexible pipes and thus take on the oil. The pipes are about one mile long, and they are connected with ten great tanks on the shore, each of which holds 50,000 barrels. These tanks are filled from the big gusher. I have already referred to, which is thirty-three miles away.

various points of the United Kingdom and the continent.

As it is now, hundreds of thousands of barrels are being shipped from Tampico and Tuxpan every month. In September last one United States company alone shipped 328,000 barrels of Mexican crude oil from Tampico to Sabine, Tex., and in October the Gulf Refining company took 50,000 barrels. The new German tank steamer Adorna, which has a capacity of 60,000 barrels, has entered this trade. It will take cargoes of oil from the Standard Oil company's refinery in Louisiana to Argentina, and on the return trip will stop at Tampico and bring crude oil to the refinery.

Fuel Oil for Panama.

A great part of the oil which comes from Mexico is well adapted for fuel. It is of a heavy, viscous character and can be used to make steam just as it comes from the wells, although it can also be refined into a good standard, illuminating oil. A large amount of it is now used to run the locomotives on the Mexican railways, and it will probably supply the great reservoirs which will furnish the oil fuel for the ships going through the Panama canal. It is the intention of our government to have oil fuel depots as well as coal depots at Panama, and there are many who believe that oil like this will be the standard steamship fuel of the future.

The Cunard company recently investigated this matter through a board of engineers appointed especially for the purpose. It tested the use of the oil in its largest steamships, and declared that the fuel saving would be at least 40 per cent. This comes not only from the first cost of the fuel, but from the fewer men needed in the boiler rooms and at the furnaces. A vessel like the Lusitania now carries about 200 men at firemen and coal passers. By using oil this number can be reduced 65 per cent and moreover the storage space for the oil is much less than that needed for coal. In the above experiment the oil was converted into gas before it was put into the engines.

A motor using raw oil was recently shown at Nuremberg, Germany. This produced 100 horsepower, and it weighed only about a ton and a half. This is 15 per cent of the weight of a gas motor plant of the same power.

Fuel Oil for Gunboats.

I am told that most of the new steamships now projected are contemplating the use of fuel oil, and that at the meeting of the naval architects in London not long ago it was stated that 20 new vessels were to be fitted with oil plants. It is believed that oil will be the naval fuel of the future. Russia's new gunboats are so constructed, and the probability is that similar arrangements will be installed in certain vessels of our navy. If this is so it will give a big market to the Mexico of the future, and also to our oil fields in California and elsewhere.

According to the estimates of the United States geological survey we have a possible fuel oil supply in our own territory amounting to 10,000,000,000 barrels and the minimum supply of California alone is estimated by the scientists at 5,000,000 barrels. It is said that three and one-half barrels of California oil will make as much steam as one ton of coal, so you can see something of the enormous wealth which is still stored away under Uncle Sam's feet.

In addition is the enormous oil territory here, which even the visionary estimates will soon have a capacity of 500,000 barrels of oil per day. I understand that there are enormous fields of fuel oil on

the coast of Colombia, which are now being prospected. On my way to Panama last year I traveled with a California oil man, who owned something like 50,000 acres of such land near Cartagena, so you see there is some fuel left for mankind in addition to the fast-disappearing supplies of wood and coal.

As to the present oil product of the world, it is now more than 30,000,000 barrels per annum, and of this the United States is producing more than 20,000,000 barrels. Russia takes out something like 10,000,000, the Dutch East Indies like 11,000,000, and in 1911 Mexico produced more than any country except the United States and Russia. In 1911 its product probably approximated 25,000,000 barrels, and as I have said, the output of the present is about 30,000 barrels per day.

merit for distinguished service entitles a soldier to \$2 a month additional while in the army, whether on the active or retired list. In case an enlisted man on the active list dies from wounds or disease not the result of his own misconduct, his widow or any other person previously designated by him is entitled to an amount equal to six months' pay at the rate received by him at the date of his death.

Exceedingly favorable opportunity is afforded for active intelligent young men of temperate habits, who may enlist as privates and develop the necessary qualifications to secure promotion to the grade of noncommissioned officer at good pay. Unmarried soldiers under 30 years of age, who are citizens of the United States, who are physically sound, who have served honorably not less than two years in the army and who bear a good moral character, are permitted to compete, by examination, for promotion to the rank of second lieutenant, a grade in the army in which vacancies always exist.—Harper's Weekly.

Cure for Snoring.

One of the most respected citizens of Whistler, Mass., offers \$100 as a reward to any one who will break him of the habit of snoring, which has made him a pest in his own home, so to speak. This is a golden opportunity. Somebody will be no worse off for his financial condition than he won't sleep at all, and hence won't snore—and so his desire will be satisfied in a few days, if you see—Detroit Free Press.

ENLISTMENT LAW FEATURES

Choice Inducements Offered Those Who Take the Soldiering Life.

The act of the last session of congress providing for an enlistment period of seven instead of three years, was designed not only for the benefit of the soldiers, but also for the good of the service, as it creates a reserve force similar to that of some European countries. This provision went into effect on November 1. Hereafter the full enlistment term will be seven years, but only the first four years will be spent in active military service. After that the soldier, if he does not care to re-enlist for another seven-year period, will be furloughed and transferred to the army reserve without pay or allowances, but subject to recall to the colors at a moment's notice.

There are alternatives offered to soldiers who enlist under the new law. At the expiration of four years' continuous service with organizations, either under first or any subsequent enlistment, they may be enlisted for another period of seven years, in which event they will receive their final discharge from prior enlistment; or, at the expiration of three years' continuous service with such organizations, either under first or any subsequent enlistment, upon written application, they may be furloughed and transferred to the army reserve, in the discretion of the secretary of war. In this event they will not be entitled to re-enlist in the service until the expiration of the seven-year term; or, subject to good conduct and physical fitness for duty, upon written application to that effect, they will have the right of remaining with the organization to which they belong until the completion of the whole enlistment without passing into the reserve force.

The army holds out to the man who cares to follow the easy life of a soldier some choice inducements to enlist under the provisions of the new act. All soldiers receive from the government during active service, without cost (in addition to their regular pay), rations, clothing, bedding, medicines and medical attention. Those who serve honestly and faithfully for twenty years, or who may be discharged on account of wounds received or disease contracted in the line of duty, are entitled to pension and admission to the soldiers' home in the city of Washington. After thirty years' service enlisted men are entitled to be retired, and upon retirement will receive three-fourths of the monthly pay allowed to them by law in the grade they held when retired, \$50 a month additional as commutation for clothing and subsistence, and \$25 a month additional in lieu of quarters, fuel and light. Then, again, a certificate of

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TWENTY YEARS.


Makes a great difference in most women. They are troubled with "nerves"—they suffer from backache, headache, sleeplessness, a sense of irritability or twitching, hot flashes, dizzy spells, or many other symptoms of female weakness. The local disorder and inflammation should be treated with Dr. Pierce's Lotus Tablets and the irregularity and weakness of the female system corrected and strengthened with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. The system upon the young women or the women of middle age—upon the nerve and blood forming structures—may be too great for her strength. For over forty years sold by druggists to woman's peculiar weaknesses and distressing ailments. The one remedy so perfect in composition and so good in curative effects as to warrant its makers in printing its every ingredient on its outside wrapper. The one remedy which absolutely contains neither alcohol nor injurious or habit-forming drugs.

Followed letter selected at random from a large number of similar ones and cited merely to illustrate these remarks:

"In the winter of 1901, I became greatly run down and irregular," writes Mrs. HENRY SCOTT, of Swan Creek, Mich., Route 1, Box 48. "I slowly but surely grew worse, and, at last, resolved to apply to the doctor for help. The doctor said I had inflammation, enlargement of the liver, and I was to take Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. When I had purchased two bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, I was started to take this remedy I could not walk across the floor, but after I had taken three bottles I could feel myself gaining, so I dropped the doctor and took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Only for it I think I would have been dead—I really believe it saved my life. I feel better now than I twenty years."

The Doctor's Advice

By Dr. Lewis Baker



The questions answered below are general in character, the symptoms or diseases are given and the answers will apply to any case of similar nature.

Those wishing further advice free, may address Dr. Lewis Baker, College Bldg., College-Bleed Sts., Dayton, O., enclosing self-addressed stamped envelope for reply. Full name and address must be given, but only initials or fictitious name will be used in my answers. The prescriptions can be filled at any well stocked drug store. Any druggist can order of wholesaler.

Q: The happiest woman alive. I am on this side of heaven, it is a shame. Why cannot I be like other women? I do not work hard and have pretty good health.

A: You can "be like other women" if you will follow my advice, which is to use three grain hypo-phosphite tablets in sealed capsules with directions, and most widely prescribed by intelligent physicians everywhere. They improve the nutrition, add red blood corpuscles to the blood, improve the complexion, but through regular use most follow to get these good results.

Q: "Mr. Don" writes: "My joints are becoming so stiff from rheumatism that I can scarcely walk. Is there any help for me?"

A: Of course there is help for you and for all others who suffer from rheumatism. Take the following and you will be entirely cured: 100 grains of potassium, 1 dram, sodium sulphate, 1 dram; wine of colchicum, 1 oz.; comp. essence cardiol, 1 oz.; comp. fluid bilva, 1 oz.; and syrup sarsaparilla, 5 oz. Mix and take a teaspoonful at meal time and again at bed time.

Q: "Mary J." says: "Every winter I have a cold which lasts till spring. I have tried several doctors' prescriptions, but they do no good, so I ask you what to do?"

A: The best medicine to relieve colds and coughs is made by mixing the contents of 1/2 oz. bottle of essence mentha, larvae, with honey or home made sugar syrup. Full directions for making are given on the bottle and also how to take it. You will find this will cure your cough in a very few days and it is perfectly harmless and pleasant to take.

Q: "Miss A." writes: "I have a very bad case of dyspepsia. I am afraid to eat a hearty meal. My breath is bad and I am cross and irritable most of the time."

A: If you will get the following tablets and take according to directions which accompany the package, you will soon be rid of all distress in your stomach. It will also help your constipation. They are called tablets tripeptine and are put in sealed capsules. If this medicine is allowed to stand it will cause appendicitis, so begin taking at once.

Q: "Helen" writes: "Please tell me what to do to gain an appetite. I cannot eat and am thin and nervous."

A: You need a good appetizer tonic and the best one that I could tell you of is: Syrup of hypophosphite comp. 1 oz., tincture adonis comp. 1 oz. Mix and always shake well before using. Take 1 teaspoonful before meals for appetizer and you will gain an appetite and your whole nervous system will be restored to its natural state.—Advertisement.

If Your Child Needs a Physic

If Cross, Feverish, Tongue Coated, Give "Syrup of Figs" to Clean the Stomach, Liver and Bowels.

Look at the tongue. Mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's insides, the stomach, liver and 30 feet of bowels are clogged up with purifying waste matter and need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

When your child is listless, drooping, pale, doesn't sleep soundly or eat heartily or is cross, irritable, feverish, stomach sour, breath bad; has stomach ache, diarrhoea, sore throat, or is full of cold, give a teaspoonful of Syrup of Figs, and in a few hours all the foul, congested waste, undigested food and sour bile will gently move on and out of its little bowels without nausea, griping or weakness, and you surely will have a well, happy and smiling child again shortly.

With Syrup of Figs you are not drugging your children, being composed entirely of luscious figs, senna and aromatic it cannot be harmful, besides they dearly love its delicious taste.

Mothers should always keep Syrup of Figs handy. It is the only stomach, liver and bowel cleanser and regulator needed. A little given today will save a sick child tomorrow.

Full directions for children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the package.

Ask your druggist for the full name, "Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna," prepared by the California Fig Syrup Co. This is the delicious tasting, reliable old reliable. Refuse anything else offered.—Advertisement.

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