

probable that this great petroleum field will assume an enormous value in the near future, and will rank among the chief assets comprised in the Crown domain of the Dominion. The committee also suggests that a tract of about 40,000 square miles be reserved from sale, and that practical tests and explorations be made to ascertain its value.

491. Petroleum is found in several other countries in the world, but principally in the United States, Russia, Egypt and Burmah. It was first discovered in the United States, in Pennsylvania, in 1859, and the total production of crude oil since then has amounted to 345,573,177 barrels, valued at an equal number of dollars, the States of Pennsylvania and New York having produced 330,312,443 barrels out of the above quantity. The very unexpected discovery of crude petroleum in enormous quantities in the Trenton limestone of north-eastern Ohio in 1886 has had an important effect on the output of that State, the production having increased from 650,000 barrels, in 1885, to 5,018,015 barrels in 1887. Petroleum
in United
States.

492. The earliest records of production of petroleum in Russia commence in 1821, though the existence of oil was known hundreds of years before. The Baku oil fields at the eastern extremity of the Caucasus Mountains are the most important. The total shipment of petroleum products from Baku, from 1883 to 1887, have been :— Petroleum
in Russia.

	Galls.
1883.....	145,180,705
1884.....	262,621,710
1885.....	300,149,775
1886.....	377,006,120
1887.....	389,816,630

The Russian Government, it is said, are contemplating the building of a canal to connect the rivers Don and Dnieper, which would permit tank steamers to pass all the way by water from the Caspian into the Black Sea, and thence of course to all parts of Europe, whereas now the oil for export has to be taken by rail from Baku to Batoum, and