

465. Though petroleum has been found in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and particularly in the North-West Territories, where it seems certain there is an immense unexplored oil region, it is in the County of Lambton, Ontario, whence the most of the oil has been and is obtained, Oil Springs and Petrolia, in the township of Enniskillen, being the largest oil-producing districts, the oil being obtained at a depth of from 370 to 500 feet. The first flowing well was struck on the 19th of February, 1862, and before October in the same year there were no less than thirty-five flowing wells. As there was no accommodation for the storage of this enormous flow, there was a frightful amount of waste, and it is calculated by one authority that between the dates mentioned no less than five million barrels of oil floated off upon the water of a neighbouring creek. Means were taken after a time to stop this waste, and, though no exact particulars are available, the annual output for some years has been about 600,000 barrels.

466. There were 13 refineries in operation in Ontario in 1889, employing about 260 men, and it was estimated that there were 3,500 wells pumped.

Number of
refineries.

467. Exact figures of the total production of oil cannot be obtained, but, as far as returns are available, it would appear that in 1889 the amount approximated very closely to 639,991 barrels, of a calculated value of \$612,101, while the value of the production of 11 out of the 13 refineries was \$1,414,184.

Produc-
tion of pe-
troleum in
Canada in
1889.

468. The following table contains the only reliable statistics of Canadian production of oil that are available, and these figures do not give the total production, since the quantity of crude oil used as such is not included :—

Produc-
tion of oil
in Canada,
1881-1889.