

the United States Government have decided to make use of nickel steel armour plates, and the contract for their manufacture has been awarded, so that the prospects for this industry round Sudbury are very promising.

667. 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, but it is in the county of Lambton, Ontario, whence most of the oil has been and is obtained, Oil Springs and Petrolea being the largest oil-producing districts, the oil being obtained at a depth 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 great waste, and it is calculated by one authority that between the dates mentioned no less than 5,000,000 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.

668. There were 12 refineries in operation in Ontario in 1890, employing about 250 men, and it was estimated that there were 3,500 wells pumped.

669. Exact figures of the total production of oil cannot be obtained, but, as far as returns are available, it would appear that in 1891 the amount was 755,298 barrels, valued at 1,004,546; in 1892, 779,753 barrels, valued at \$982,489, and in 1893, 798,406 barrels, valued at \$834,334.

670. 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 :—