

Jumping Pound.—The most striking oil news of the year from Alberta came from the Jumping Pound field, 20 miles west of Calgary and 20 miles north of the northern producing wells of Turner Valley. The discovery well, Shell No. 4-24-J, came into action in December, 1944. The limestone was struck at 9,618 feet and a porous zone was encountered between 9,636 and 9,860 feet. After acid treatment, the Well was placed on experimental flow tests. On Jan. 5, 1945, a gas flow of 7,650,000,000 cu. ft. was recorded and 93 bbl. of oil with a gravity of approximately 48° were reported. The particular interest of this development lies in prospect of the discovery of a new field so close to that of the famous Turner Valley and extensive drilling activity is expected during 1945.

The Bituminous Sands Development.—Alberta, in its bituminous sands deposit at McMurray, has the greatest known oil reserve on the face of the earth. Estimates vary between that of Canadian geologists at 100,000 million tons and that of the United States Bureau of Mines at 250,000 million tons. The yield at present is about one barrel of oil per ton of sands. The economic value of these reserves will depend upon many factors, including production at present price levels of United States, Latin America, and other Eastern fields. At all events, the bituminous sands are a valuable reserve and the Government of Alberta, in 1944, completed arrangements for the erection of an experimental pilot plant for the purpose of ascertaining the economic possibilities of oil separation from the sands.

Development in the Northwest Territories.—In the Northwest Territories intensive development of the Fort Norman oil field has taken place with the following interesting production record: 1941, 23,664 bbl.; 1942, 75,789 bbl.; 1943, 266,882 bbl.; 1944, 964,300 bbl.

This increased production from Fort Norman has offset, almost entirely, the reduced production from Turner Valley during 1943 and 1944, so that Canadian production (see Table 25) has been held at a fairly high level during the war years.

The Canol project—the largest defence undertaking authorized by the Government of Canada—has been the major undertaking in the Norman area. It was designed to increase oil production in the Northwest Territories to supply the requirements of the Armed Forces and for use along the Alaska Highway.

World and Empire Production of Petroleum

Another record in world production of oil was achieved in 1944 with the enormous total of 2,561,570,000 bbl., an increase of 249,829,000 bbl. compared with 1943. This increase was contributed mainly by the United States, although Latin American fields and those of Iran also recorded greater productions. The actual consumption of petroleum has, of course, been much greater than the production figures given, since the production of synthetic petroleum has climbed considerably in the war years, especially in Axis countries. The British Empire now produces less than 2 p.c. of world production: in 1944 actually only 1.66 p.c. as compared with 1.95 p.c. in 1943. Table 27 analyses the British Empire production by countries; the Island of Trinidad in the West Indies produces more than half the present Empire total and Canada comes second with 23.3 p.c.