

Petroleum has become of such vital importance to industry that an intense search for oil has been carried on during and since the War not only in the Prairie Provinces, where several new oil fields have been discovered, but also in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Provincial Ministers of Mines held a conference in September, 1948, and a Continuing Interprovincial Petroleum and Natural Gas Committee was established, with representation from each of eight provinces and from the oil industry. The function of the Committee is the specialized study of all oil and natural gas matters throughout Canada.

The Alberta oil fields have been of leading importance since the discovery of the Turner Valley Field in 1914. Recent important developments of new fields near Edmonton have again emphasized the significance of this area.

*Alberta Oil Fields.**—The 1948 oil output from Alberta fields reached the record level of 10,973,583 bbl., approximately 4,000,000 bbl. more than in the preceding year and over 837,000 bbl. more than the previous record of 1942. In 1942 the Turner Valley field produced what was for all practical purposes the whole of Canada's oil, the remainder, 132,361 bbl. being produced from nine other Alberta fields and 248,000 bbl. from wells in Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. In 1942 the output of the Turner Valley field began to decline and has continued to decline. The field still contributes, however, about 45 p.c. of Alberta's oil. Production from the Turner Valley amounted to 4,900,739 bbl. in 1948 and in that year six new wells were brought into production in the field.

The Leduc field, discovered in February, 1947, is replacing Turner Valley as Alberta's, and Canada's, greatest oil field. Output from that field increased from 122,297 bbl. in January, 1948, to 661,106 bbl. in December, to make the year's total of 4,657,371 bbl. This output was achieved in spite of the interruption caused by Atlantic No. 3 running 'wild' from the end of March until fire broke out and was extinguished on Sept. 6 and the well was 'killed'. On May 14 the entire field was shut down by order of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board so that all transportation facilities might be made available for the removal of the uncontrolled flow from Atlantic No. 3, which at one time was as high as 14,000 bbl. a day. By June 5 the situation was sufficiently in hand to permit resumption of production from all wells but at reduced quotas. In October, 1949, 327 of Alberta's operating wells were in the Leduc field. In the Redwater field, 45 miles northeast of Edmonton, discovered in the autumn of 1948, there were in October, 1949, 205 operating wells giving an average of 20,000 bbl. a day. In the winter of 1948-49 an important discovery was made west of the Woodbend sector of the Leduc field.

Fourth in barreage among the Alberta fields is Lloydminster. This area, partly in Alberta and partly in Saskatchewan, is without rival in the heavy oil field, being notable for its output of asphaltic oil. In the summer of 1949 both the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway converted a considerable proportion of their coal-burning locomotives to oil burners, using fuel from this field. This field (including Lone Rock), produced 1,494,161 bbl. in 1948. Of this total 648,055 bbl. was from the Alberta portion which came into production in 1939 and now shows a production rate of 1,549,299 bbl. Of the other Alberta fields, Princess showed the greatest development during 1948.

* Summarized from *Alberta Oil Review, 1948*, by A. C. Ballantine, Supervisor of Technical Publications, Government of Alberta. Figures in this review are compiled on a basis different from that used in the compilation of Table 23.