

*Saskatchewan.*—The finding of crude oil in southeastern Saskatchewan, which commenced with the Midale field discovery in 1953 and the Frobisher field discovery in 1954, continues to be one of the most important accomplishments in Western Canada. The rapid oil-field development since 1954 has transformed Saskatchewan from a small producer of heavy and medium gravity crude oils to a comparatively large producer, with an increasing trend towards light oil output.

Oil fields in southeastern Saskatchewan are being developed on the northeastern rim of the Williston Basin, a large structural feature with its centre in North Dakota. Oil occurs in limestone formations of Mississippian age at depths of from 3,100 to 5,400 feet, the average well depth being approximately 4,100 feet. The oil is predominantly light gravity. The extensive data being obtained on the nature of oil occurrence in this part of Saskatchewan are assisting companies to proceed with field programs at a rapid rate and with much success. In 1956, 33 oil discoveries were made in Saskatchewan, 26 of them in the southeastern part of the Province. In 1956 some 550 oil wells were drilled in 16 fields and one-third of all drilling rigs in Western Canada were located within a 5,000-sq. mile area in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. As a result of this intensive development program, Saskatchewan's crude oil reserves were increased by 48 p.c. during 1956. A number of the fields are close to each other and early in 1957 four of them were joined to form the Steelman field which, by mid-year, had 470 oil wells.

Producing fields on the west side of Saskatchewan are in the vicinities of Lloydminster, Kindersley and Swift Current. In 1956 there was considerable drilling in the Coleville heavy gravity field near Kindersley. Further development took place in the medium gravity oil fields southeast of Swift Current where crude oil is produced for an export market in St. Paul, Minnesota. Oil fields in western Saskatchewan produce from sandstone formations of Lower Cretaceous and Jurassic ages and the average well depth is 3,000 feet.

Until 1955 the comparatively small Smiley field in western Saskatchewan was the Province's only light gravity crude oil producer, but by the end of 1956, as a result of developments in southeastern Saskatchewan, light gravity crude oil accounted for 35 p.c. of the provincial output, medium gravity crude for 48 p.c., and heavy crudes for 17 p.c. The increasing percentage of light gravity oil is giving Saskatchewan access to greater market outlets and thereby permitting rapid growth in production. Output of crude oil almost doubled in 1956, reaching 21,077,000 bbl., and by mid-1957 a similar rate of increase was indicated for that year.

All natural gas reserves are in fields on the west side of the Province and occur predominantly in formations of Cretaceous age. Six gas discoveries were made in 1956 and 26 field development wells were drilled. Saskatchewan's natural gas resources are much smaller than those of Alberta and British Columbia but good progress has been made in opening up Coleville, Brock and Unity field resources for use in Saskatoon, Prince Albert and other north-central communities. In 1956 the Success field was supplying natural gas to Moose Jaw and during 1957 this service was extended to Regina.

*Manitoba.*—Manitoba's crude oil production dates from 1951. During 1956 oil exploration was somewhat curtailed compared with the previous two years, but field drilling proceeded actively and production rose from 4,145,756 to 5,786,540 bbl. The three principal fields which account for 90 p.c. of the Province's output are in the immediate vicinity of the town of Virden, 23 miles east of the Saskatchewan border. At the end of 1956 these three fields had 86 p.c. of the 736 oil wells in Manitoba. Production comes from formations of Mississippian age. During 1956 and 1957 a search was being made in areas east of Virden for oil occurrences in other geological formations. There are no gas wells in Manitoba.

*Yukon and Northwest Territories.*—Development drilling was undertaken in the Norman Wells field during 1956 for the first time since the end of World War II. Four oil wells were completed in the field which is on the Mackenzie River, 90 miles south