

<i>Item and Date</i>	<i>Alberta</i>	<i>Saskatchewan</i>	<i>Manitoba</i>	<i>British Columbia</i>
NUMBER OF OIL WELLS—				
December 1954.....	5,068	1,094	284	3
December 1955.....	6,138	1,655	551	4
December 1956.....	7,390	2,414	736	9
December 1957.....	8,015	3,240	846	20

Expenditures in Western Canada on exploratory and development activities totalled almost \$550,000,000 in 1957. At the end of the year land held totalled 215,000,000 acres, 42 p.c. of which was in Alberta, 25 p.c. in Saskatchewan, 17 p.c. in the Territories, 13 p.c. in British Columbia and the remainder in Manitoba.

Geophysical activity declined in 1957, as it has each year since 1953, and amounted to 1,338 crew months. Work in Alberta accounted for 69 p.c., Saskatchewan 20 p.c. and Manitoba 11 p.c. Altogether, 3,057 wells were drilled—1,911 oil wells, 187 gas wells and 972 dry holes. An average of 204 rigs operated in Western Canada during the year and the average depth of well drilled was 4,700 feet.

Details of oil and gas field activities by province during 1957 and the first half of 1958 follow. Some production estimates for the year 1958 are included.

*British Columbia.*—The development of the northeastern section of British Columbia is being continued at a rapid rate and, although the chief search at present is to prove more gas reserves, oil is being found. Reserves of natural gas in this area have been placed at over 4,000,000,000,000 cu. feet. Ninety-two wells were drilled in British Columbia during 1957—11 were successful oil wells, 41 successful gas wells and 40 were dry holes. At the end of the year the province had four oil fields as compared with two in 1956 although production continued to come only from the Boundary Lake and Fort St. John fields. One gas field, the Dawson Creek field, was discovered during the year.

*Alberta.*—Production of crude oil in Alberta in 1957 amounted to 137,492,316 bbl., more than 6,000,000 bbl. less than in 1956. This was the first time since 1947 that output did not exceed that of the previous year, and the downward trend continued in 1958 when the total was estimated at 112,300,000 bbl.

Development drilling declined a marked 37 p.c. in 1957. Drilling in the huge Pembina field, which in 1956 accounted for almost half of the province's total number of wells, added only 286 wells, to bring the field total to 1,974 wells. The near drilling-out of this field was the major factor in the decline in development drilling; other oil fields rapidly developed during the year included the Keystone, Innisfail, Willesden Green, Harmattan, Sturgeon Lake South and other fields where fewer than 20 successful wells were drilled.

Although development was down from earlier years, exploratory drilling increased by 10 p.c. Of the 113 successful exploratory wells, 21 were new field discoveries. Of the many oil discoveries, the most significant were those in the Virginia Hills, about 120 miles northwest of Edmonton, and at Innisfail, 60 miles north of Calgary. The Virginia Hills discovery was the first well ever to find commercial oil in the Slave Point formation and touched off the exploration which later resulted in further Slave Point discoveries at Swan Hills, Edith Lake, and Kaybob in the area northwest of Edmonton and south of Lesser Slave Lake. The D-3 discovery at Innisfail was followed by extensive development work and was designated a field in November. Also of importance was the Joffre D-2 pool in which 20 wells were drilled during the year.

During 1957, 125 successful gas wells were completed, 70 of them being exploratory and the others development wells. At the end of the year Alberta had 584 gas wells capable of production and 766 capped gas wells. Of the successful exploratory wells, several were significant. The more important discoveries, in terms of reserves, were made in the Calgary, Carson Creek, Keystone, Lambert Creek, Lovett River, Pine Creek and Stolberg areas.