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THEY STRUCK OIL.

The History of the Petroleum Industry in the United States Reads Like a Romance.

Of all the romantic stories of creating wealth out of the raw products of the earth and of building up industries that are almost imperial in their power for good or evil the petroleum industry is not surpassed, if equaled, in the history of the United States. The great oilfields have been the scene of many shifting romances and tragedies, and not even the El Dorado of the Pacific coast in 1849 created more excitement than men witnessed in Pennsylvania when boring for oil was first started. The discovery of gold in California did not establish a permanent industry on the Pacific coast, but the unlocking of the wells of oil in Pennsylvania was the beginning of a business that has continued to swell in proportions even down to the present. No other industry in America surpasses that of oil production and distribution. The oilfields have naturally been exhausted in places and prices have come down from what they were in the fifties and sixties, but the gigantic concern which has largely controlled the business for the past decade not long ago declared a quarterly dividend of 10 per cent, and this meant a distribution among the stockholders of \$10,000,000 or more.

The first oil well was drilled near Titusville in 1859, and in July, 1860, the total output of the wells on Oil creek, in Pennsylvania, amounted to 200 barrels a day, but in one year from that the regular supply was estimated at from 6,000 to 7,000 barrels per day. And the excitement was not at its height then! People were flocking to the oilfields in ever increasing numbers. Farmers who had thought themselves poor with a few hundred acres of barren soil in their possession suddenly found themselves on the royal highway to fortune. A few sold out their possessions at fabulous prices, but the majority were more anxious to bore for the oil themselves.

The production increased so rapidly that the price of illuminating oil quickly drop-

ped to a point where every one could afford to use it for lighting purposes. In 1874 the yield amounted to 6,500,000 barrels, but even this was a mere bagatelle to what was coming. In 1890 there were exported 664,491,498 gallons and an enormous quantity was used at home.

Huge fortunes were naturally realized by some of the men engaged in the enterprise. No such opportunities for money making had been presented before. There were five men in particular who, living near the oil region saw great monetary possibilities in the awakening industry. They were comparatively poor, but they were shrewd and progressive enough to invest their small capital and their large brains in the petroleum business. They were early in the field and worked up with the industry. In time they formed the Standard Oil company, which developed into the most gigantic concern that ever sought to control an industry in any country of the world, and today the organizers of that company represent in the aggregate a fortune of about \$600,000,000.—George E. Walsh in Cassier's Magazine For October.

TALES OF THE TURF.

Cadet, 2:12½, is owned by Mr. George A. Singerly of Philadelphia.

George A. Bain has been engaged to conduct the W. R. Brasfield sale.

Mr. M. Adler of Baltimore is the new owner of the pacer Corbett, 2:14½.

It is said \$40,000 will be appropriated for prizes for the coming Chicago horse show.

Gold Foil, a pacer by Gold Leaf, out of Belle Oton, by Sultan, has taken a record of 2:22½.

The stallion Advance, 2:22, by Onward, has passed to Mr. James Merrick, Suddlersville, Pa.

Patchen Boy, 2:13¾, is a black 3-year-old colt by Wilkes Boy, out of Lady Clay, by Metropolitan.

At Berea, O., Elyrietta, a bay mare by Elyria, won the 2:35 pace recently, taking a record of 2:24¼.

Pat, that recently fought out a seven heat race at Blenheim, Ont., lowering his record to 2:24½, is by Patron.

In a recent effort to beat 2:30¼ at Lexington, Ky., Amber Glint, a bay horse by Egotist, took a record of 2:28½.

Virginia Fox, a bay mare by Baron Wilkes, out of a mare by Mambrino Russell, took a record of 2:18¾ at Clinton, Mass., in a winning race.

The bay gelding Sixteen, by Cassidy, out of a mare by King Rene, won the 2:40 class for trotters at Baltimore in straight heats, taking a record of 2:20¼.

Eckstein looks like another sensation for Axtell. He is a 4-year-old colt, and a few days ago he defeated a field of 14 horses at Indianapolis, taking a record of 2:16¼.

Baron Wilkes is the sire of the greatest money winners of the year. Four of his get—Oakland Baron, Bumps, Baron Rogers and Grand Baron—have won nearly \$14,000.

The gray stallion Exploit, by Clay, that took a trotting record last year of 2:19¼, won the 2:35 class for pacers at Alliance, O., taking a record of 2:24¼ in the fifth heat.—Turf, Field and Farm.

Extra Sensationalism.

The only instance encountered (out of Chicago) of moral restraint in a typical newspaper business man, except where the talk was obviously for publication, was in a New York circulation manager. He was lauding sensationalism to an extreme when a protest checked him.

"Of course," said he, "when I speak of sensationalism I don't mean extra sensationalism."

"Extra sensationalism? What do you mean by that?"

"I'll give you an example. One day as I was looking over the 'cases' I saw an article that told how to crack a safe. I kicked to the proprietor about it, and he killed it. That article would have a tendency to teach something immoral, and I call that extra sensationalism."—J. Lincoln Steffens in October Scribner's

The Most Costly Fruits.

Hothouse grapes are the costliest of fruits. They are never less than 75 cents a pound, and when they are most costly, in February and March, they sell for \$9 a pound, sometimes going as high as \$10 a pound. At prices ranging up to \$2 a pound there is a ready sale for them. At the higher prices they are sold almost exclusively for the use of invalids. There is a sale for all that are produced, but the production is great, and the vines may die from exhaustion after a single season of forcing.

The next most costly fruit is the hothouse peach. Hothouse peaches sell in February at \$2.50 each. They are used mainly by invalids, but such peaches are also often sold for gifts. They are presented as flowers or as bonbons would be. Three or four peaches are packed in cotton and set off with a few peach leaves in a handsome box. Hothouse peaches run down to about 60 cents each in April and May, when we begin to get the first of the peaches from the south.—New York Sun.

An Explanatory Hint.

"Why," asked Pat as he came hiccupping into the Quippery, "is the humble goat always held up as the simile for intoxication—for instance, 'full as a goat?'"

"I cannot guess," answered Tim, "unless"—and he paused meditatively and looked at Pat as if he expected an invitation—"unless it is because he is always ready to throw a horn into anybody."—Pittsburg News.

All animals, domestic ones included, become restless before a storm. Cats and dogs scratch and move about, while their fur looks less bright and glossy than usual. It is always a sure sign of rain: when horses and cattle scratch their necks and sniff the air.