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NO. 20

PETROLEUM OUTPUT IN 1908.

Product 179,572,479 Barrels, Worth \$129,706,258. Oklahoma Leads All States. New Commonwealth Sends 45,798,765 Barrels to Market and Increases Output 5.23 Per Cent Over Previous Year—Louisiana, Missouri, and West Virginia Show Gains.

On February 3, the Geological Survey published a statement showing the general progress in petroleum production during 1908, according to which the phenomenal production of 1907 had been eclipsed in 1908 by a production of between 175,000,000 and 180,000,000 barrels.

The Survey is now compiling the final figures for 1908, which will show that the total production aggregated 179,572,479 barrels, valued at \$129,706,258, an increase in quantity of 8.1 per cent over 1907.

Oklahoma led all the States in production, with a total of 45,798,765 barrels, an increase of 5.23 per cent over 1907; California was a close second, with 44,854,737 barrels, an increase of 12.85 per cent over 1907; but Illinois gained the greatest percentage, rising from 24,281,973 barrels in 1907 to 33,685,106 barrels in 1908, a gain of 38.72 per cent.

Western States Show Gains. Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Utah, Wyoming, and West Virginia also showed gains in production. The declines were in Indiana, where it was nearly 36 per cent; in Kansas, 25 per cent; Pennsylvania, nearly 6 per cent; New York, 4.3 per cent; and Kentucky and Tennessee, 11 per cent.

The average price of petroleum for the entire country in 1908 remained identical with that of 1907, but there were considerable variations of an important character in individual States. The most notable of these was the increase in price in California, from 37 cents a barrel in 1907 to 52½ cents a barrel in 1908. The Gulf States, Louisiana and Texas, showed a decline in value from a little over 80 cents to 60 cents. The Appalachian oil showed a slight increase in value, from \$1.75 in 1907 to \$1.79 in 1908. On the whole, prices were remarkably steady considering the notable increase over the large production of 1907.

Increase in Three Fields. The increased activity in the three great fields—California, Oklahoma, and Illinois—was the dominant feature of the situation rather than the discovery and opening of any considerable new fields. The principal new field to gain prominence was the Caddo pool, in northwestern Louisiana. The hoped-for increase in production from the Markham and Goose Creek fields in Texas did not materialize, and the total from the State showed a decline in spite of the increased production in the Humble pool. In the Appalachian field 7,115 new wells were drilled, of which 5,292 were producers, with a total initial production of 55,002 barrels; in the Lima-Indiana region 1,255 new wells were drilled, of which 1,088 were producers; in the new Illinois field 3,574 wells were drilled, of which 3,019 were producers, with an average initial production of 26 barrels a well. In the Mid-Continent field 3,490 wells were drilled, of which 2,587 were producers of oil, 471 were producers of gas, and 432 were dry; the initial production of the producing wells averaged 83.7 barrels. In the Gulf field only 819 new wells were drilled, 606 being producers and showing an initial production of 297 barrels. In California 617 wells were drilled, of which 594 were productive, and in other parts of the country forty-four wells were drilled, yielding twenty-four new producers. From the total of 15,210 productive wells drilled, the initial production was 42.9 barrels—Washington Herald.

Banker in Harness at 90.

Et. Louis, July 10.—Rufus J. Lackland, president of the Boatmen's Bank, is 90 years old today. He celebrated the event by working as usual. Lackland is the oldest financier in the United States actively engaged in business. He works every day, reaching the bank by 9 o'clock and leaves his office between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, according to the quantity and urgency of the day's business. Lackland is slightly deaf, but he shows in no other way the consequence of his 90 years.

Bad Fight at a Saw Mill.

A bad fight took place a little more than a week ago at a saw mill a few miles west of Benson. Fletcher Strickland is the sawyer and he had agreed to push his work along and keep the logs sawed as they were put in place for him. A man named Moore was to carry logs to the mill. Strickland did not keep up with the sawing and for this reason Moore had to handle some of the logs twice. They disputed over this point and had a bad quarrel. Strickland struck Moore with a turpentine dipper across a fence which was between them. The dipper cut through Moore's hat and into his head, rendering him unconscious for awhile. Strickland went into a house where a man named Weeks lives. When Moore recovered a little he went to his home for his double barrel shot gun and came back to shoot Strickland. Weeks tried to prevent Moore from entering his house but he rushed in anyway. Just before he got into the house Strickland was placed in another room and concealed. This no doubt saved his life. They were both arrested and bound over to court for trial.

Cyclone Kill's Three.

Dallas, Tex., July 10.—W. B. Dowell, his wife and ten-year-old daughter were killed, and another daughter aged fourteen years fatally hurt in a cyclone which demolished their home three miles southwest of Hemleigh, in the Texas Panhandle, last night.

Not a stick was left standing of the small frame house which was the home of Dowell and his family.

KILLED BY FATHER'S REAPER.

Child Hides Playfully in Wheat, and Is Cut to Death.

York, Pa., July 10.—Playfully hiding himself in the tall wheat where his father was driving a reaper and binder, Lester Richard, three years old, was today mangled by the blades of his father's machine. He died in half an hour.

The family, with a party of neighbors, was holding a harvest frolic, and the boy, unnoticed by his parents, followed his father into the harvest field. Reichard heard a scream and found that he had run the reaper over his own son. The boy almost bled to death before a physician could be summoned.

The father managed to carry the child out of the field and lay the mangled body at the feet of his mother. Then he fainted, and it was with difficulty that he was revived.

GIRL BURIED ALIVE TEN DAYS.

Dug Out of Railroad Tunnel Which Caved In.

St. Gall, Switzerland, July 2.—A young woman who was caught in a cave-in of a railroad tunnel 10 days ago was today dug out alive.

She suffered agonies of cold and hunger during this period, but managed to sustain life by sucking moisture from her clothing on which water occasionally trickled. She continued calling for help until she was finally heard and rescued.

PAPER PRINTED IN BALLOON.

First Journalistic Publication in the Clouds.

Hamilton, O., June 30.—The first newspaper ever printed in a balloon was received in Butler county yesterday, when a balloon from Dayton passed over the western part of this county.

The bag was equipped with a corps of newspaper men and a printing press by a Dayton (Ohio) paper, and, as it soared over the towns miniature copies of the paper, printed in the balloon basket, were thrown to the ground.

When the balloon reached Woods Station, eight miles east of Hamilton, copies were sent down telling of an exciting experience at Darrown, 4 miles from Woods, when it was said farmers fired at the balloon with rifles.

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Mr. Holmes Makes Reply to Article in Last Week's Journal.

In last week's issue of The Smithfield Journal appeared an article written by J. C. Stancil, in which he dodged all the former facts at issue, and proceeded to abuse me with all the powers at his command.

Now I do propose to have some self-respect, and as such I cannot stoop low enough to indulge in language that would do justice to such a batch of rotten, slanderous, falsehood, as appeared in that article. The people of Benson and the community know me, and any person who would believe what he has written, no words from myself would cause them to change their mind, and the intelligent citizenship in other sections of the county where I am not known, do know the character of Republican Journalism, and therefore it can do no harm to cuss, or any good to praise me, and for those reasons I shall not waste my time in answering any such rot.

But there are a few things I feel it my duty to say in as much as Stancil accuses me of trying to slander his family. Now everybody who has read my article in The Herald know that I cast no reflection whatever on Mr. Stancil's family. I think I would be among the last of men to say a disrespectful thing about innocent women and children, and so far as Mrs. Stancil is concerned, she is a lady of the very highest type in every respect, coming from one of the very first families of our town. She and her children are held in the very highest esteem by all who know them.

Now in regard to what Stancil says about the Benson Spokesman refusing to publish my articles I refer the reader to an editorial that will appear in this week's issue of that paper and I ask you to look it up and read it.

Then comes N. T. Ryals with another letter claiming to be a member in good standing in the Ananias club. Well, we did not initiate Mr. Ryals into the club, he surely must have been in company with J. C. S.

We did not even claim that Mr. Ryals was a relative of Ananias, at all, we only gave the records as they appear on the town minutes recorded and signed by Mr. Ryals, as clerk. Mr. Ryals calls me brother. I suppose he means in the political family. Now I might be some sort of a half brother or a cousin of some kind to a man who would allow his name run on a ticket with radicals in order to defeat the regular Democratic ticket but never a full blooded brother.

The truth of the business is just this. Nathan is cussing in the ranks of Democracy and praying on the heights of Radicalism. Now in regard to the charge I have made as to the conditions of public affairs here, every man who has taken time to investigate knows I have stated nothing but facts. I have quoted the records exactly as they appear on town docket, and facts and figures, not on record were furnished me by the mayor, chief of fire department and others in authority, and to continue to write in reply to articles written by men who have no regard for truth and decency whatever, would be folly indeed, and as I have stated before the character of Radical Journalism is too well known in the county to do me any harm.

Respectfully,
J. W. HOLMES.
Benson, N. C., July 13, 1909.

Trouble of long standing led Chas. J. Dresser, a railroad detective at Toledo, to kill William Chatterton Tuesday.

Wrecking freight trains for tramps at Laporte, Ind., Lake Shore Detective Charles Silverside was killed, probably by tramps.

The crest of the flood in the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in Missouri has been reached, and conditions are improving fast.

The million mark for attendance at the Seattle Exposition was passed in 42 days, beating both the Jamestown and Lewis and Clark shows, which took 90 and 65 days respectively.

After fatally clubbing his wife, J. M. Parks hanged himself at Waco, Tex., Monday.

The Smithsonian Institution is to locate a meteorological and astronomical station on Mount Whitney, Cal., 14,000 feet high.

AWFUL MURDER NEAR SELMA.

Joe Pulley Meets Horrible Death at Hands of His Child, a Twelve year Old Girl Who Brained Him With An Axe While He Lay Sleeping. Man Was Cruel to His Child. He Was Considered Very Bad Man.

Selma, July 14.—Early Monday morning a little girl, Marie Pulley, the stepdaughter of Joe Pulley, and said by some to be his illegitimate child, struck Joe Pulley on the head twice, or more, with an axe, crushing his skull which caused his death some eleven hours later.

The evidence as taken before the coroner's jury is as follows: The jury was T. H. Whitley, B. S. Pittman, H. B. Pearce, Sr., R. A. Ashworth, G. B. Craven and W. T. Kirby.

Marie Pulley, the defendant, said "I am 12 years old. Joe Pulley said that Mr. Carlyle told him I had stolen collars from Gabe Sherrad. I told him I did not do it. He whipped me. Wore out three sticks on me, said he was going to kill me. This was last March. He was good to me before this; bad since. Whipped me and choked me because I hollered. He went to where Gabe was plowing, Octavia hollered for gun. When Joe came to the house said I was the cause of it all. Sent me to Gabe's house to let him to come here. Gabe said for Joe to come to him. Joe threatened to shoot me because I dug up one hill of corn. He took hoe handle and hit me across my body and arm, then wore out a switch on me. Yesterday morning he went up to Mr. Pat Hicks'; heard about my stealing chickens, said he would pay me tomorrow morning. Was going to whip me and drive me away. I got up before the rest did and went out and got the axe and hit him twice. He hollered 'oh! Lordy,' at first lick. I hit him as hard as I could. I intended to kill him. When I saw blood I ran out. Octavia, Pulley's wife, jumped up. She never said a word. Just ran out. It was between five and six o'clock. A little boy lay by Pulley's side. Octavia and baby and I lay on bed. Thought it all right to kill him. My mother was a Brantley from Wakefield. Joe married her when I was eight months old. My mother's father was George Brantley. Heard Joe say he would kill Gabe. Said he would take Octavia to Pender county and leave me in the woods. He often said he would take me to the swamps and leave me. Heard Joe talk about killing four men and laugh about it. Threatened to shoot me last Thursday. Whipped me last Wednesday with a switch as large as my thumb. Joe was sober yesterday. He took all his spite on me. Octavia ran out of house first and I ran out behind her; threw the axe down by side of the house."

Octavia Pulley said: "I was born in Pender county. Married Joe Pulley in August, 1903. Joe went to Pat Hicks' yesterday evening; came back and told Marie he had heard she had been stealing Mr. Carlyle's chickens. Joe told Marie he was going to whip her this morning and drive her away. Joe had been married three times. Treated Marie kindly until two years ago. I didn't see licks struck as I was lying on back side of bed. Only heard licks. Heard Joe holler; was badly scared. Marie ran out of house ahead of me. Joe and I got on all right. Thought he would whip Marie this morning. Did not think he would kill her, though he said he would."

It is told by those who were present at the burial of Joe Pulley that his father Mr. Josiah Pulley came up just as they were about to lower the body into the grave, and on being asked if he wanted to see the body, replied, yes. After taking a long last look at the body of his son, he turned and said: "Yes, that is Joe. I guess it is best that it is as it is, he has lived a bad life, he has been in lots of trouble and it is said has been the cause of several deaths. From what I hear it is best as it is for he would have caused more trouble." Just to think that a man can stand at the side of the grave of his dead son and say that it is best that he is dead. And this in a Christian land! What were the surroundings of this boy in his bringing up? Surely he was not trained in the right way, or he would not have met the end he did.

Joe Pulley had served a term in the United States prison for counterfeiting, it is said, and in jail for blockading, and was known as an all round bad man. The girl Marie Pulley who is twelve years old or more says she has never been to church or to school in her life. She has lived all her life, any way for the last six years in the hearing of the church and school and has not been allowed to go to either, and strange as it may seem, that child is not the only one that is not allowed to go to church or school.

SENEX.

The Crop Outlook.

The outlook for a big corn crop is better than ever before. The acreage is the largest ever known, being seven per cent larger than last year. The condition of the crop is 89.3, the highest reported for July in nine years. The best estimate is that the yield will be 3,161,174,000 as against 2,927,400,000 in 1906, and that year was a record breaker.

The wheat crop promises to yield 663,500,000 bushels as against 664,600,000 harvested last year. The price is high, which is good for wheat growers and bad for buyers of wheat and flour.

The cotton outlook is poorer than for years, the recent government crop report putting the condition lower than ever before in a July report. In Texas the crops have been hurt by drought and the Atlantic States by excess of rains. The spindles of the world have increased enormously, even more than the increase in cotton acreage. Cotton has gone up three cents a pound and the cotton farmer who manages to raise a fairly good crop of the staple will get good prices for it.

In the Eastern part of the State heavy rains have hurt tobacco, but in other sections the damage has been slight.—News and Observer.

Diet of European Nations.

The following is a summary of the dietetic habits of the rural population, the healthiest portion of the several European countries, according to Food and Drink.

Belgium—Coffee, black bread, potatoes, vegetables, chicory, and sometimes salted meats.

England—Beef, pork, potatoes, vegetables, tea, cheese, beer cider.

Ireland—Oatmeal, bread, potatoes, beans, milk, butter, vegetables.

Scotland—Oatmeal, bread, potatoes, milk, butter, coffee, tea, very rarely flesh.

Rhenish Prussia—Milk, soup, dried fish, grapes, potatoes, flesh only for the feast days.

Saxony—Bread, butter, cheese, soup, vegetables, coffee, flesh only on feast days.

Bavaria—Porridge, butter, milk, cabbage, potatoes.

Italy—Macaroni, bread, fruits, beans, peas and lentils, wheat, rice, grapes, wine, a very little flesh, on feast days, but only in certain regions.

Spain—Bread, vegetables, fish, fruits, flesh only occasionally.

Russia—Rye bread, cabbage, mushroom soup, wheat cooked with milk and oil.

Sweden—Potatoes, rye, oatmeal, barley, milk, salt herring, beer, no flesh food.

Switzerland—Cheese, milk coffee, vegetables, soup, wine, very rarely flesh.

France—In the neighborhood of Bourgogne meat is eaten but once a year. The peasants of Morven eat meat twice a year. The peasants of Sardinia once a year; the peasants of Auvergne very seldom; the Bretons never, except rich farmers, who eat flesh on feast days.

We see from this table that European peasants, the hard workers, subsist almost wholly upon fruits, grains and vegetable food, a regimen which is highly economical, and by which they are sustained in good health. The peasants live to be much older than aristocrats and crowned heads, who feast upon meats and the luxuries of courts.

When a big touring car was overturned at Middletown, N. Y., Tuesday, Mrs. Sylvester L. Ronk, a widow, was killed.

Cutting his throat with a razor, Private Harry Charles, of the Ordnance Department, at Sandy Hook, is dead.

The Benson Spokesman Has a Say.

Benson, N. C., July 15, 1909.—In an editorial in tomorrow's paper, the Spokesman will have the following to say regarding the controversy between Mr. J. W. Holmes and Mr. J. C. Stancil:

"It is our policy to steer clear of political controversies as much as possible; but, in as much as Mr. Stancil of the Journal has seen fit to state that he has been informed that we refused to publish certain articles written by Mr. John W. Holmes of this town because we supposed charges made by Mr. Holmes in these articles to be false, we feel that in justice to Mr. Holmes it is our duty to enlighten the public on this subject. In the first place Mr. Holmes never mentioned his articles to us until we requested him to furnish us a copy of his second reply to Mr. Stancil. This he willingly did and at the same time said that he would have requested us to publish his first reply had he not known ours to be a strictly non-partisan publication. He also stated that if we cared to publish his second article we could do so and he would greatly appreciate it.

"After reading Mr. Holmes' reply we found that we had not time or space for it, and too, it contained some things of a personal nature that we did not care to publish, so we returned the article.

"We will add also that Mr. Holmes, being a gentleman, realizing that he had made his article too personal, requested Messrs. Beaty & Lassiter of The Herald, to revise it so that it would contain nothing but a statement of facts.

"We did not pay the slightest attention to this controversy until Mr. Stancil so unwisely mentioned the name of our paper in his last attack upon Mr. Holmes; therefore, we did not know which of the two gentlemen was stating facts; but, since we have been drawn into this argument greatly against our wish, remaining true to our policy to treat every one fairly, we have made a careful investigation of the matter under discussion and have found every statement made by Mr. Holmes to be absolutely true in every particular."

The Aldrich Bill Passes the Senate.

Last week the United States Senate passed the Aldrich Tariff Bill by a vote of forty-five to thirty-four. Ten Republican votes, we are glad to say, were recorded against the measure. They were cast by Mr. Beveridge, of Indiana, Mr. Bristow, of Kansas, Messrs. Brown and Burkett, of Nebraska, Mr. Crawford, of South Dakota, Messrs. Cummins and Dolliver, of Iowa, Mr. La Follette, of Wisconsin, and Messrs. Clapp and Nelson, of Minnesota. These men come from the central West; they stand for an intelligent constituency. The more important changes which the Senate has made in the Tariff Bill as passed by the House are: the substitution of a corporation tax for an inheritance tax; the provisions for a tariff commission and for a Special Custom Court; the elimination of the retaliatory feature of the maximum and minimum provision; and the increase in the Internal Revenue on tobacco. The tariff duties themselves have been changed by devices of classification, by decreases and increases, the net result being that the duties proposed represent, in general, upward and not downward revision, and are a betrayal of the spirit of the Republican platform pledge and of the principles repeatedly enunciated by President Taft. The bill, together with the House bill, now goes to a conference between the two houses. While the country looks to the Senate conferees to stand firm on such administrative features as improve those of the House bill, it certainly expects the House conferees to stand firm on their more moderate duties. Fortunately, very many members of the House will soon be candidates for re-election. What one of them feels that the Aldrich schedules of ultra-protection would help his campaign?—Editorial in Outlook, New York.

Dragged from a launch by a wire catching her under the chin, Dorothy Bruce was drowned at Iowa Falls, Ia., Tuesday as was also Archie Drake, who jumped into the water to save her.