

—Dietz on Science—
**OIL INDUSTRY
FAIRLY RECENT
IN DISCOVERY**

Today's Giant Business
Was Started Less Than
75 Years Ago.

BY DAVID DIETZ
Scripps-Howard Science Editor

With the oil industry more or less in the center of the stage as the NRA swings into action, with millions of motorists discussing the price of gasoline and the gasoline tax, and with many municipalities engaged in rate battles with natural gas companies, it is difficult to believe that less than seventy-five years ago not a drop of oil nor a whiff of gas were produced for commercial purposes.

In these days a little petroleum was skimmed off springs where it oozed to the surface and used for medicinal purposes. A few "gas springs" were known. But that was all.

Attention is called to these interesting facts by Professor Carey Cronis of the Walker Museum of the University of Chicago. Cronis paints a picture of the beginnings of the oil industry in comparison with the situation today.

The pioneer wells of the 1850's were drilled by hand. Flammable machinery is used today. The early wells usually cost a couple of hundred dollars. Today, it is commonplace to sink \$100,000 into the drilling of a well and there are a few that cost \$250,000.

Colonel Edwin L. Drake's pioneer well in 1859 yielded twenty-five barrels of oil a day from a depth of seventy feet. Today, wells are in existence which go down a mile and three-quarters and have a potential capacity of 200,000 barrels a day.

Search More Exact
At first, the search for oil was somewhat a haphazard affair. Some of the older prospectors, Cronis tells, went on the theory "that oil and gas, like gold, are where you find them."

"But through the intelligence of man in general and of engineers and geologists in particular, and I must confess, through sad experience as well, we have learned that they are invariably found in 'certain places,'" he adds.

Dr. I. C. White, state geologist of West Virginia for many years, established by 1885 that the most likely of these "certain places" were localities in which the rocks were bowed upward into what geologists called anticlines. Once this principle was established, the number of wells drilled in vain began to decrease.

Cronis says that many claims have been put forward as to who was the first to suggest the anticline theory, but that the fact remains that Dr. White established the theory firmly and made it common knowledge and therefore deserves the chief credit.

Held Oil Troublesome
Among those who acted upon the theory prior to 1885 was Henry West, a Canadian public land surveyor, who seems to have been aware of it as early as 1865.

In a report on "Geology, Oil Fields and Minerals of Canada," which West drew up in 1865 he states that a certain map shows "each lot, concession, and oil-bearing anticline."

Drake, according to Cronis, is well known as a pioneer of the petroleum world but two others, he says, are not as well known as they should be. They are George H. Bissell, and Samuel M. Kier.

Cronis quotes from a letter which appeared in the Meadville Republican for March, 1865. According to this letter, Kier first obtained oil as a troublesome and unwelcome byproduct from a salt well.

Not knowing what to do with it, he sent it to a professor in Philadelphia who suggested that it be refined and used as an illuminating oil. He did this and in partnership with two others who invented lamps to use the oil, opened a store in Pittsburgh.

STATES RUSH BOOZE CONTROL PLANS

Wets and Drys Map Attacks as Repeal Advances

The plans of wet and dry organizations in the event of national prohibition repeal are related in the following article, the last of three written for The Times.

BY HELEN WELSHIMER
NRA Service Writer

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—If the ratification of the repeal amendment by thirty-six states should doom national prohibition, the states again will become the battleground for the struggle between the wet and dry forces.

Already, in anticipation of a victory, some anti-prohibition organizations are at work on suggested plans of liquor control. Prohibition organizations, however, refusing to concede the likelihood of an ultimate wet triumph, are not extending their future plans beyond continuance of their fight against national repeal.

"For forty years," said an official of the Anti-Saloon League, "our ideal has been prohibition of the liquor traffic. We still believe that this is the best plan and we are not making any others. If repeal should win we will be interested in seeing what plans the repealists have to offer."

"The national organization hasn't laid out a program for such a contingency, but if repeal should win the state leagues naturally will be come very active on problems of local option. Many of the state laws now on, and others will later, provide for local option, and the league hopes to extend local prohibition as widely as possible."

The Crusaders, comprising an anti-prohibition group numbering more than one and one-quarter million members, is assertive in the program which it intends to follow. This organization came into being "to eliminate prohibition and the evils that grew out of it," according to its own definition.

CRUSADER members have been pledged to the cause of temperance from the first, and not to the mere repeal of the prohibition amendment," George E. Dickie, managing director of the group, explained. "We oppose the restoration of the saloon; we want the right of every territory desiring prohibition to be protected in that right; we want liquor control laws which will restrict to the minimum opportunities for profit in the liquor business."

"In Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, Missouri, Maryland, Illinois, Iowa, New York and several other states, commanders of the organization have had several conferences with officials of the department of justice to this end. The intention of the former is to mold their organization into a power for bringing pressure to bear on local authorities wherever gangdom seems to be getting a foothold."

In direct antithesis to the continuation program of the men's organization there is a prohibition



A wet day . . . and a dry parade.

tion have been working toward control plans. "They have been helping to survey conditions and stressing the need of appointment of commissions to work out the various phases of the problem. They are trying to co-ordinate the views of all interested groups—the commercial and civic bodies, and the bar and medical associations."

Foreseeing initial victory in early repeal, and knowing that the problem of liquor control laws soon will be settled, the Crusaders have no intention of disbanding even then. They consider that they still have an important mission to perform—that of combating organized crime and racketeering.

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The wets clamor for repeal.

ity that the now extremely active Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform may be disbanded, if the eighteenth amendment ceases to exist.

The 1,500,000 members of this group signed a pledge whereby they promised to stand for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment and the return of the liquor control power to the states. Repeal of the amendment and the resultant return of state rights would take care of its pledge.

Mrs. Courtlandt Nicoll, first vice-chairman of the Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform, says: "We have stood for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment and the return of the control of liquor to the states. Plans for further liquor control, in case the prohibition amendment is repealed, will belong to the respective states. It isn't a function of the national organization to tell individual states what they shall do."

A SURVEY of the liquor laws of thirty-four states, made recently by Mrs. John S. Sheppard, New York chairman of the W. O. N. P. R., reveals what she describes as

"encouraging indications of a new attitude toward liquor and liquor regulations." These laws display "three primary gains," according to her review:

First—Determination, by taxing beer and wine, to make available to the state revenue which, during the thirteen years of prohibition, has been available only to the bootleggers.

Second—Due consideration of the rights and needs of the citizens of each state is granted.

Last the sale of 32 beer and wine is being carried on under conditions which, while not in all cases ideal, nevertheless (she asserts) will do much to remedy evils which anti-prohibitionists lament under the eighteenth amendment.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, which has advocated an educational program, from the very first which would guide youth away from alcoholism, will continue its instruction policy if the amendment for which it fought so many years is repealed. Like the Anti-Saloon League it offers no compromise. It is directly opposed to the sale and consumption of hard liquor.

**THOUSANDS OF
WOMEN WILL
AID NRA DRIVE**

Mass Meeting Called For
Friday to Enlist All
Under Blue Eagle.

(Continued From Page One)

Earl Lowe of the Northwestern Life Insurance Company.

Each "lieutenant-colonel" will select a "major," who will command a third of the district. The "majors" will appoint ten "captains," who will select volunteer workers. The total force will comprise 1,318 workers, it is estimated.

Procession Plans Drafted

The parade on Aug. 21 tentatively plans a march down Meridian street to the Circle, where speeches by Governor Paul V. McNutt and Senator Frederick Van Nuys will be heard.

The committee in charge of arrangements plans to have President Roosevelt broadcast an address from the summer White House at Hyde Park, N. Y. General Hugh S. Johnson, national recovery administrator, will be asked to visit the city and speak.

An airplane flight to cities throughout the state, inviting them to participate in the parade, will be made by Herbert O. Fisher of the Chamber of Commerce. He will carry formal invitations from Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan to the mayors.

Named for Conference

Maurice Tucker of South Bend will represent the Motor Truck Association of Indiana, Regulated Motor Carriers of Indiana, and the Indiana Motor Traffic Association at a code conference in Washington, Aug. 23.

Members of the Apartment Owners' and Operators' Association, meeting at the Washington Wednesday, expressed willingness to join the NRA movement and adoption of a local code of ethics was discussed. Francis Wells, Indiana recovery director, addressed the group.

**MAN, 105, SAYS WINE
IS LONGEVITY SECRET**

Disregards Doctor's Orders And Enjoys Good Health.

By United Press

SYRACUSE, Sicily, Aug. 10.—Giovanni Mascali, aged 105, is reputed the oldest man in the island of Sicily. He lives in a small village when interviewed on the occasion near here and told the local press, of his 105th birthday, that he attributes his longevity and good health to drinking plenty of wine.

"About eighty years ago, I fell ill," Giovanni told the reporters, "and the doctor warned me that if I wanted to enjoy good health I would have to give up wine."

"Keep it out of the house, he told me. So I have. I keep it in a shed just outside the front door, and when I want a drink I go and have it outside. The doctor, poor fellow, who was an abstainer, died a long time ago. I propose to go on drinking wine until I die."

The ancient surgical operation of cutting a hole in the skull to relieve pressure, or "let out the evil," still is practiced in Algeria.

OPERATION IS FATAL

Mrs. Harley Ham, 20, of Vincennes, died early today in her room at the Eastgate hotel, as the result of an illegal operation, according to Dr. E. R. Wilson, deputy coroner.

Mrs. Ham registered at the hotel Monday and had been attended by a local physician several times before she was found dead by Byram Fletcher, night clerk, officers were told.

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