

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Council Paper No. 103 of 1913.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

Administration Report of Inspector of Mines
for 1912-13.

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HONOURABLE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following report on the work of the Mines Department for the year 1912-1913.

OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. There has been no change in the technical staff of the Department during the year. I and Mr. D. M. Hahn have carried out our duties as Inspector and Deputy Inspector of Mines, respectively, as in previous years, in addition to our work in the Public Works' Department. On the 7th June, 1912, Mr. H. A. Fuller, assistant clerk, was promoted to the post of third clerk in the Public Works Department and Mr. W. H. Clark was appointed in his place. The work and responsibilities of the Department are growing so rapidly that the time is approaching when the constitution of the Department as a whole will call for complete consideration.

LEAVE AND ACTING APPOINTMENTS.

3. On account of ill-health I obtained leave of absence from the Colony from July 24th to August 28th, but while in London my services were retained there by the Secretary of State on important matters connected with the oil industry of the Colony. I returned to the Colony on November 4th. During my absence Mr. D. M. Hahn acted as Inspector of Mines and also performed the duties of his substantive appointment.

Mr. Betancourt, the 2nd Assistant Inspector of Mines, was on leave of absence from the Colony from 2nd to 16th December, 1912, the performance of his duties being provided for departmentally.

4. The following was the expenditure:—

Personal Emoluments:—

Inspector of Mines	Nil.
Deputy Inspector	Nil.
Assistant Inspectors	...	...	...	£ 590 19 7
Expert Adviser	...	...	...	100 0 0
Clerical Assistance	...	...	...	100 0 0
Messenger	...	...	...	5 0 0
				£ 795 19 7	

Other Charges:—

Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	313 10 2
Surveys	...	...	...	...	118 10 6½
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	71 71 1½
				£1,299 17 5	

LEGISLATION.

5. Ordinance No. 33 of 1912, to amend the Oil Mining and Refining Ordinance No. 25 of 1911, was passed on July 16th, 1912. Regulations under Section 8 of the Oil Mining and Refining Ordinance No. 25 of 1911, and Section 3 of the Oil Mining and Refining (Amendment) Ordinance No. 33 of 1912, were made by the Governor in Council and published on 26th August last.

WORK UNDER THE MINES, BORINGS AND QUARRIES ORDINANCES.

6. MANJAK.—Work was continued by the Trinidad Vistabella Manjak Company, Limited, during part of the year at the Vistabella Mine, San Fernando. No great amount of work was, however, done and in December the mine was closed. During the year two additional Manjak Mines were opened at Williamsville, and four shafts were sunk to exploit the mineral. In two of them Manjak in fair commercial quantities was found but in the other two the mineral was not in sufficient quantity to warrant further work and in fact one shaft was actually abandoned. The operations started at Williamsville last year have been continued. The operations at both places were conducted under the supervision of Mr. J. C. T. Raspas, M.I.M.E.

7. All the mines were inspected regularly and work so far as the law is concerned, was carried on to the satisfaction of the Department. No accidents were reported during the year.

8. PETROLEUM.—In my last report I stated that the petroleum industry had not made satisfactory progress during the year then under review. During the past year no great amount of field development work has been done, but that which has been done, and the negotiations with various corporations which have been now carried to a successful issue, will, I think, mark it as the most important, so far, in the history of the oil industry of the Colony. When and if the history of these negotiations come to be written in full, I think it will be gratefully recognized with what minute care and skill difficult and delicate situations have been treated and with what success the negotiations have been steered to a successful termination, and I hope the great services rendered to the Colony by the inter-departmental Committee, which acted for it in London and advised the Secretary of State, will be as fully recognized as they deserve. We are now in the position of knowing that at least three powerful corporations will be soon operating independently in the development of the oil fields of Trinidad, and we shall therefore shortly know what position it is going to take in the oil world.

Taken on the whole, the actual drilling work done by most of the companies cannot be said to have been satisfactory; the majority of them seem not to have had sufficient working capital and, consequently, have not been able to prove properly the oil bearing prospects of the lands upon which they have been working. Yet, though a great amount of drilling has not been done, several of the wells drilled have proved that the oil sands in certain districts hold large quantities of oil and that at no great depths. This has been proved at Guapo and also at the *Union Estate*, Brighton. Wells were drilled at both places into sands containing large quantities of oil with high gas pressure and in both cases the production was large and the wells flowed for several weeks. On cessation of gas pressure the wells continued to give a fair production by pumping and baling.

9. Eleven of the companies reported on in my last annual report carried on drilling operations during the year and four have now closed down. Two new companies started work during the year.

10. The General Petroleum Properties of Trinidad, Limited, did not resume operations either at Aripere or Guayaguayare during the year.

11. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, have carried out some very important work in the period under review. They have now practically concentrated work on their *Union Estate* at Brighton and have drilled several wells which have given a very large production. In this field a great amount of additional plant in the shape of large boiler stations, pumping stations, pipe-lines, etc., has been provided to deal with the production and to pump the oil won to the large storage tanks at Brighton. Large earthen storage reservoirs have been dug, large dams built, and additional lengths of asphalt roads have been made. Though the company has had a fairly large production shipments have been comparatively small.

12. The Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, at Point Fortin have continued to open up the Crown Lands held by them under lease and they have also continued the drilling operations on their private lands. The chief constructional work, apart from drilling, has been the laying down of large central steam plants, a considerable extension of their light railway, and the laying down of additional pipe-lines.

A considerable amount of drilling has been done on their private lands with fair results. On Crown Lands the indications which I mentioned in my last report have been fulfilled and several successful wells have been drilled. A small experimental refinery was erected during the year and at the time of writing a larger one has been erected and is working.

13. The Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited, were in negotiation with the Government, during a large part of last year, regarding the issue to them of a mining lease and also the transfer of additional areas under prospecting license. A road was made into these Crown Lands and a bungalow was erected for the accommodation of the staff. A large Galician rig was partially erected but no drilling was done.

14. No work has been done by the Trinidad Western Oilfields, Limited, during the year and the prospecting license, which they held, has now expired.

15. The Trinidad Cedros Oil Company, Limited, continued boring operations during the first part of the year and then closed down. Since then no further work has been done.

16. The Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Company, Limited, during the first half of the year, continued their drilling work; since then little has been done, with the exception of the extraction of a small quantity of oil.

17. During the early part of the year Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer continued prospecting work on his Perseverance Estate at Guapo. In June a well was drilled into an exceedingly prolific oil

sand; this well flowed for nearly two months and a very large quantity of oil was produced; but owing to the lack of storage arrangements a great proportion of this oil flowed down the ravines into the sea and was lost. Since then the work has mainly been in building earthen storage reservoirs and laying of pipe-lines to convey the oil to the shipping place.

18. The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, have continued the development of the lands held by them under prospecting license at Tabaquite. A number of shallow wells have been drilled and in most of them a small production of very high grade petroleum has been obtained. The refinery was worked during the year and the petrol obtained has been sold locally. The chief work, apart from drilling, has been the erection of further accommodation for the staff the provision of a multiple pumping station for the wells, stores and some additional steel storage tanks.

19. The South Naparima (Trinidad) Oil Company, Limited, closed down work at the end of last financial year. During the latter half of this year the Venezuelan Oilfield Exploration Company, Limited, took over their wells and part of the properties belonging to them. This company then continued drilling operations during the rest of the year and have provided steel storage tanks, additional accommodation for the staff, store sheds, etc.

20. The Tobago Oil Syndicate, Limited, continued drilling operations until June and work was then abandoned.

21. The Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, continued work during the greater part of the year and then suspended operations. Apart from drilling little work was done in the field.

22. During the year the Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited, and the Trinidad Petroleum Developments, Limited, started drilling on Private Lands. Two shallow wells were also drilled with a hand boring machine by a cocoa proprietor at Erin.

23. In all 44 additional wells were drilled during the year and in 29 of them oil was struck. The total number of wells drilled in the Colony to the present is 134,—39 being on Crown Lands. The aggregate depth drilled during the year was 42,552 feet.

24. The monthly log abstracts of the wells drilled, of the oil won, and the manner in which it was disposed of, have been received and filed with the records in the office.

25. Regular inspections of the Oilfields have been made during the year and in most cases the Ordinances have been satisfactorily followed. In one case the Department took proceedings against an oilfield manager for a breach of the law and was successful. In addition to the regular inspections in connection with work under leases and licenses and for the purpose of ascertaining if the Ordinances are being followed numerous special inspections have been made in connection with refineries, dams, roads, etc.

26. PROSPECTING LICENSES.—Most of the licenses under consideration at the time of writing my last report have now been dealt with and there are very few now outstanding. Most of the prospecting licenses expired during the past year. In a number of cases these expired licenses were conditionally included in the schedule of lands to be issued under Exploration License to the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited. One prospecting license covering an area of 1,282 acres was settled during the year and three others covering an area of 6,867 acres were renewed for a further period of two years.

27. EXPLORATION LICENSES.—No further exploration licenses have been issued since writing my last report, but an agreement, published on Council Paper No. 29 of 1913, has been entered into with the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, with regard to the taking up of an exploration license over large areas of Crown Lands.

In connection with the Exploration Licenses mentioned in my last report geological examinations have been made of the areas, and maps and reports have been submitted to the Government under Section 2 of the licenses.

28. OTHER MINING OPERATIONS.—In my last report I mentioned that 2 applications for licenses to prospect for manjak had been approved. They were, however, not taken up by the applicants. In the case of the exploration license for gold and silver some exploration work has been done and *interim* reports submitted to the Government. So far the search has not proved a promising one.

29. QUARRIES.—The work under this part of the Ordinance has been much the same as in previous years and there is nothing special to report. As in the past only four quarries so far are provided with boilers to drive the machinery.

RETURNS UNDER THE ORDINANCES.

30. Appendix A, compiled from the returns under Section 18 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907, gives the average daily number of persons employed and the output from the various mines,

borings and quarries. In the case of one oilfield, the manager left the colony several months before the expiration of the financial year and the return is not available. I have not experienced so much trouble as in previous years with regard to these returns; but several managers, have again not complied with the Ordinance and in cases in which a previous warning had been given proceedings under the law are being taken.

WORK UNDER THE ASPHALT INDUSTRY ORDINANCE No. 10 OF 1906.

31. The working under this Ordinance have been carried on in much the same way as in previous years. No additional land was declared "Asphalt Bearing" under Section 7 and work was therefore confined to the various village lots at La Brea.

32. Nine "Notices to Commence" were received and these necessitated the taking of 2,589 levels; this brings the total number of levels taken since the introduction of the Ordinance to 21,773.

33. No application for a permit under Section 9 was received.

34. Ten applications for certificates of award were received and in 9 cases awards were issued.

CONCLUSION.

35. I wish again to express my thanks to the various managers who in most cases have willingly given every assistance possible to enable the Department to carry out its various duties.

ARCHIBALD G. BELL,
Inspector of Mines.

15th July, 1913.

APPENDIX A.

Daily average number of persons employed and quantity and value of Minerals obtained from Mines, Oilfields and Quarries during the financial year ended 31st, March, 1913.

Mineral.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximate value
	Males.	Females.			
Manjak	40	6	46	1,251 tons	£ 2,606 5 0
Oil	799	2	801	17,626,563 imp. gals	79,085 15 7
Asphalt (Crude, Epurée, etc.)	618	22	640	210,047 tons	109,063 1 8
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, etc.)	184	93	277	75,773 "	4,354 10 10
Government Quarries (Limestone, etc.)	464	94	558	68,647 "	7,755 1 9

NOTE.—The difference in value between metal won from Private Quarries and Government Quarries is that the former consist of both Limestone and Gravel whilst the latter is chiefly Limestone.

APPENDIX B.

List of accidents which occurred at Mines, Oilfields and Quarries, during the financial year 1912-1913 reported under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907.

Name of Mine, Oilfield or Quarry.	Date 1912.	NO. OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED.			
		Minor.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
Villamar Quarry	April, 2nd	1	—	—	1
Moruga Quarry	" 18th	—	1	—	1
Government Eastern Quarry	May, 17th	1	—	—	1
" "	June, 27th	1	—	—	1
Trinidad Lake Petroleum Co., Ltd.	July, 10th	—	—	1	1
Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd.	November, 20th	2	—	—	2
La Brea Asphalt Works	December, 9th	2	—	—	2
Perseverance Estate	December, 10th	1	—	—	1
Trinidad Central Oilfields	January, 28th	1	—	—	1
Basilon Street Quarry	January, 13th	—	—	1	1
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co.	February, 16th	—	1	—	1
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	March, 3rd	1	—	—	1
La Brea Asphalt Works	March, 27th	—	1	—	1
Total		10	3	2	15

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the financial year 1912-13.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed.	Mineral Worked.
<i>Mines.</i>						
1	Vista Bella ...	San Fernando	Trinidad Vista Bella Manjak Company, Limited ...	J. C. T. Raspass ...	20	Manjak.
2	Williamsville ...	Williamsville	J. C. T. Raspass, Williamsville ...	" ...	26	"
3	Village Lots ...	La Brea	Ambard & Protheroe, Port-of-Spain ...	R. Fitzallen ...	177	Asphalt.
4	Pitch Lake ...	"	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd., London, England...	W. D. Fowler ...	223	"
5	Do. ...	"	La Brea Asphalt Works, La Brea ...	C. Phelps ...	240	"
<i>Oilfields.</i>						
1	Trinidad Oilfields, Limited ...	Point Fortin	Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, Point Fortin ...	T. L. Scott ...	184	Oil.
2	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Co., Limited	Brighton	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton	W. D. Fowler ...	424	"
3	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	Tabaquite	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, Tabaquite ...	H. P. Ingram ...	44	"
4	Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Co., Ltd.	Pointe Ligoure	Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Company, Limited ...	G. E. Ponsonby ...	30	"
5	Perseverance Estate ...	Guapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain ...	E. Pereira ...	18	"
6	Trinidad, Cedros Oil Co. Ltd....	Cedros	Trinidad Cedros Oil Company, Limited ...	W. Greig ...	18	"
7	Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Co., Ltd.	Barrackpore	Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Company, Limited	G. A. Peat ...	50	"
8	Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.	Rousillac	Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited ...	A. M. Scott ...	8	"
9	Icacos, Trinidad Development Company	Icacos	Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company ...	R. McCormick ...	10	"
10	Tobago Oil Syndicate, Ltd. ...	Tobago	Tobago Oil Syndicate, Limited ...	R. W. Cater ...	...	"
11	Trinidad Petroleum Developments, Ltd.	Oropuche	Trinidad Petroleum Developments, Limited ...	C. E. Burrows ...	12	"
12	Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited	Palo Seco	Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited, 62, London Wall, E. C....	A. Covey ...	...	"
13	La Gloria Estate ...	Erin	La Gloria Estate ...	E. Amoroso ...	3	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	Campo Street ...	San Juan	J. T. Gittens, Port-of-Spain ...	J. Anderson ...	5	Limestone.
2	River Estate ...	Diego Martin	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	6	"
3	Cutucupano ...	Santa Cruz	" ...	" ...	3	"
4	Carrera ...	Carrera Island	" ...	Sup. of Prisons ...	157	"
5	Villamar ...	Gasparee	F. Herrera, Port-of-Spain ...	J. Clarke ...	5	"
6	Plum ...	Plum	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	20	"
7	Tamana ...	Tamana	" ...	" ...	18	"
8	Morichal ...	Morichal	" ...	" ...	6	"
9	Mayo ...	Mayo	" ...	" ...	11	"
10	Mochel Poorie ...	Talparo	" ...	" ...	8	"
11	Sanchuchu ...	Tamana	" ...	" ...	8	"
12	Glendale ...	San Fernando	H. R. McClean, San Fernando ...	H. R. McClean ...	8	Gravel.
13	Circular Road ...	"	Borough Council, San Fernando ...	J. J. Waddell ...	2	"
14	Usine ...	"	New Colonial Company, San Fernando ...	W. Robertson ...	12	"
15	La Coulée ...	"	Heirs of Mary Joaquim, Coffee Street, San Fernando ...	F. E. Oliveira ...	1	"
16	Pickering ...	"	W. Harewood & P. P. Pickering, San Fernando ...	P. P. Pickering ...	1	"

APPENDIX G.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the financial year 1912-13.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
17	Siparia	Siparia	Trinidad Government	District Officer	27	Limestone.
18	Needham	Santa Cruz	Maude-Roxby, San Juan	R. Williams	6	"
19	Pointe-à-Pierre	Pointe-à-Pierre	J. Glendinning, Port-of-Spain	H. R. McClean	81	Sandstone.
20	Guaracara	Guaracara	Trinidad Government	District Officer, San Fernando	6	Limestone.
21	Quinam	Quinam	"	District Officer, Siparia	10	"
22	La Ressource	Erin	"	"	6	"
23	Whim and Providence	Tobago	Trinidad Government	District Officer	4 and 6	Dead Rock
24	La Pique	San Fernando	Canadian Mission	H. F. Kemp	1	Gravel
25	Railway	Champ Fleurs	Trinidad Government Railway	J. W. Stewart	17	Limestone
26	Cumuto	Cumuto	Trinidad Government	District Officer	4	"
27	Moruga	Moruga	"	"	24	Sandstone
28	Bernard	Santa Cruz	J. P. Bernard, St. Joseph	S. Barnswell	6	Limestone
29	Morne Diable	"	Trinidad Government	District Officer	28	"
30	Basilon Street	Basilon Street	J. T. Gittens, Port-of-Spain	J. Lashley	18	"
31	David Street	Gloster Lodge	"	J. T. Gittens	10	"
32	Quarry Street	"	"	J. Lashley	15	"
33	St. John	"	"	"	9	"
34	Gonzales	Gonzales Place	F. Gonzales, Belmonte	F. Gonzales	2	"
35	Duke Street	Port-of-Spain	F. Sorzano, Port-of-Spain	E. St. Rose	11	"
36	Queen Street	"	J. T. Gittens	J. Lashley	4	"
37	Prisoners	Laventille	Trinidad Government	Sup. of Prisons	36	"
38	Clifton Hill	"	J. W. McCarthy, Port-of-Spain	J. Lashley	8	"
39	Eastern	"	Trinidad Government	J. de Nobriga	132	"
40	Irving Lane	"	J. W. McCarthy, Port-of-Spain	J. Lashley	7	"
41	Fort George	Fort George Road	J. T. Gittens	T. M. Gittens	4	"
42	Pierre	San Fernando	E. Pierie, San Fernando	C. Lucas	1	Gravel.
43	Trelawne	Tabaquite	E. F. Stone, Tabaquite	E. Manohur	3	Marl.
44	Masson	Pointe Gourde	E. B. Masson, South Quay	F. B. Masson	9	Limestone.
45	Mahon	"	George Mahon, Pointe Gourde	I. Streath	5	"
46	Plum (M. L. Rd. Bd.)	Manzanilla	Trinidad Government	G. Cumberbatch	8	"
47	Domus	Monos	P. Gransaul, Port-of-Spain	O. Rivas	2	"
48	Shaw	Laventille	J. Rodriguez, Laventille	D. Shaw	3	"
49	Mottley	"	"	J. Alexander	10	"
50	Tennis Clas	"	J. T. Gittens, Port-of-Spain	M. Goveia	6	"
51	Phoenix Park	Couva	Messrs. Connel & Henderson, California	H. A. Lewis	4	"
52	Forres Park	"	New Colonial Company, San Fernando	"	6	"
53	St. Lucien	Diego Martin	Messrs. Croney & Company, Port-of-Spain	"	5	"
54	Pt. Radix	Mayaro	Trinidad Government	District Officer	8	"
55	Mt. Hope	Champ Fleurs	"	J. McInroy	6	"
56	Corosal	Corosal Road	"	District Officer	5	"
57	Champ Fleurs	Champ Fleurs	F. J. Gransaul, St. Joseph	L. Brown	1	"
58	Buenos Ayres	Erin	Trinidad Government	District Officer	7	"