

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Council Paper No. 126 of 1914.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

Administration Report of the Inspector of Mines
for the year 1913-14.

*Circulated for information. To be laid before the
Legislative Council.*

Previous Council Paper No. 103 of 1913.

Registered No. of Correspondence relating to the subject - M.P. No. 4580/1914.

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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 1913-14.

OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. There was no change in the staff of the Department during the financial year. Mr. Bell and Mr. Hahn carried out their work as Inspector and Deputy-Inspector of Mines respectively, in addition to their duties in the Public Works Department, as formerly. In the last Administration Report it was mentioned that the time was approaching when the constitution of the Department as a whole would call for complete consideration. During the past year it was found that the work of the Department was increasing to such an extent that it was necessary that a separate Department should be formed; and accordingly a scheme was drawn up, submitted to the Government and approved by the Secretary of State. In this scheme provision was made for the appointment of a paid Inspector of Mines from 1st April, 1914—also for an additional technical officer whenever it was found that his services were required. Provision was also made for the necessary clerical assistance.

LEAVE.

3. Mr. A. P. Catherall, 1st Assistant Inspector, was on leave of absence outside the Colony from 21st January to 9th March, 1914; and Mr. D. Lenagan, Clerk, was on leave of absence outside the Colony from 9th to 20th July and also from 12th to 26th August, 1913.

4. The following was the expenditure:—

Personal Emoluments:—

Inspector of Mines	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deputy Inspector	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Assistant Inspectors	...	...	...	...	£ 630 19 7
Expert Adviser	...	...	...	...	100 0 0
Clerical Assistance	...	...	...	...	100 0 0
Messenger	...	...	...	...	5 0 0
					£ 835 19 7

Other Charges:—

Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	142 5 7½
Surveys	...	...	...	...	94 3 7½
Instruments and Appliances	...	...	...	...	16 6 3
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	69 18 5
					Total £ 1,158 13 6

LEGISLATION.

5. No legislation in connection with the Department was undertaken during the year.

WORK UNDER THE MINES, BORINGS AND QUARRIES ORDINANCES.

6. MANJAK.—I mentioned in my last report that the Mine at Vistabella had been closed; no further work was done by the Trinidad Vistabella Manjak Company, and I understand that their connection with the Vistabella Estate has ceased. Towards the end of the year the Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company, Limited, commenced operations on this estate and sank a shaft in which Manjak was struck. Development operations were in progress at the close of the year.

Prospecting work has been continued by Mr. J. C. T. Raspas, M.I.M.E., at Williamsville. Three of the shafts which were being worked at the close of last financial year have been abandoned, and four new shafts have been or are in the process of being sunk to prospect for

the mineral. Shafts were also sunk at Rio Claro but proved unsuccessful and were abandoned. The Mines were inspected regularly, and were found to be satisfactorily worked in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. No accidents were reported during the year.

7. PETROLEUM.—During the past year although somewhat less drilling has been done on private lands I am pleased to be able to report that more has been done on Crown Lands—the figures being as under:—

	1912-13.		1913-14.
Private lands	... 31,358 feet	...	...26,546 feet
Crown lands	... 11,111 ..	...	...15,387 ..

The actual number of wells drilled was 41 and in 18 of these oil was struck, bringing the total number of wells drilled in the Colony to 174 of which 63 are on Crown Lands. I am glad to state that there has been a marked increase in production—22,523,060 imperial gallons in 1913-14 as against 17,626,563 in 1912-13. The past year will I think prove to have been an exceedingly important one in the history of the Oil Industry of the Colony as at the time of writing three companies of the very highest standing have commenced drilling operations on Crown Lands.

8. At the close of the year under review there were eleven Oil Companies actively engaged in the winning of oil, of which three commenced operations during the year.

9. The General Petroleum Properties of Trinidad, Limited, did no work during the financial year, and the areas which they held under Lease from the Crown were included in a lease issued to the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited. This Company has also taken up other areas of Crown Lands under lease and has commenced operations in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. A road which was built by the Forest Reserve Oil Company, Limited, has been extended some two miles, and bungalows and offices have been built. At the time of writing drilling operations had been commenced and oil struck.

10. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited have mainly confined their operations to their Union Estate: they have drilled several new wells in which oil has been struck. Their constructional work has been mainly confined to the various provisions to be made in connection with water and oil storage, and the extension of the roads. The Company have made regular shipments of Crude Oil during the year.

11. The work done by the Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, during the first half of the year was not as good as it might have been; this was due to the fact that negotiations were in progress regarding the taking over of their properties by the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited. During August last this company assumed control of the properties, and since then work has been of a more satisfactory nature though the development work was rather confined to private lands, no great amount having been done on the Crown area.

Large earthen reservoirs for the storage of oil and water have been built, and the light railway used for conveying machinery to the field has been considerably extended. A road some two to three miles in length is being constructed so as to link up the field with the Southern Central Road.

12. The negotiations which were mentioned in the last report as being in progress between the Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited, regarding the issue of a lease and the transfer of additional areas to them have continued during the whole of the year, and matters are not yet finally settled. No work has been done during this period.

13. No work has been done by the Trinidad Cedros Oil Company either on the Crown lands held under Prospecting License or on their private lands. The Prospecting License has expired and the lands have reverted to the Crown.

14. The Trinidad Oil Leases, Limited, have taken over the areas belonging to the Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Company, Limited. No work has been done with the exception of the extraction of a small quantity of oil which has been sold locally for fuel purposes.

15. Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has continued drilling operations on his Perseverance Estate during the year. A small refinery was erected during the early part of the year, and this was replaced later by a somewhat larger one in which small quantities of petroleum spirit have been produced and sold locally. The pipe-line from the wells to the shipping place was extended; but apart from this little work has been done during the year.

16. The Prospecting Licenses held by the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, over Crown lands in the Montserrat Ward were re-issued during the early part of the year, and development work has been continued on the same lines as before, small quantities of high grade petroleum being produced from the wells. A larger refinery has been erected and the bulk of the crude oil produced has been treated, the petrol and illuminating oil being disposed of locally.

17. The Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Company, Limited, have successfully continued drilling operations during the whole of the year. A considerable part of the Crude Oil produced has been disposed of by this Company to sugar estates in the neighbourhood for fuel purposes.

The chief work apart from drilling has been the erection of a small refinery and the provision of steel tanks for storage purposes, and the laying down of an additional pipe-line.

18. The Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited, have continued drilling operations; but apart from this no work has been done.

19. The Trinidad Petroleum Developments, Limited, continued drilling during the early part of the year and then closed down; during the latter part of the year a new company called the Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited, took over the properties and have since continued drilling operations. Several wells have been drilled from most of which a moderate production was obtained. An earthen reservoir has been constructed for oil storage purposes, but no other work apart from this and drilling has been done.

20. A new Prospecting License was issued to the Petroleum Development Company, Limited, over Crown Lands in the Morne L'Enfer Reserve in June last, and since then a great deal of work has been done by this Company. A number of wells have been drilled, and from most of them a fairly large production has been obtained. About eight miles of Asphalt roads have been made into the property, and bungalows for the accommodation of the staff, stores, sheds, etc., have been erected, several earthen sumps have been made, and two steel storage tanks have been erected in order to deal with the production; a pipe-line has been laid from these storage tanks to connect with the main storage tanks at Brighton.

21. The Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Limited, commenced drilling operations during the early part of the year on Crown Lands formerly held under Prospecting License by Messrs. Liddelov and Wharton and which had been re-issued to this Company. A road some two miles long has been made into this property from the Naparima-Mayaro Road, and the usual bungalows for the accommodation of the staff, stores, etc., have been built. Wells are now in the process of being drilled.

22. The Cruse Syndicate, Limited, have commenced drilling operations under Prospecting License on Crown Lands in the Morne L'Enfer Reserve. A road about one and a half miles long was built into the property, and the usual bungalows, offices and stores were erected. The drilling operations were successful, a fair production of oil was obtained and stored in earthen reservoirs.

23. The Log Abstracts of the wells drilled and oil extracted have been received regularly each month and filed with the records in the office

24. PROSECUTIONS.—Inspections of the Oilfields have been made regularly by the Officers of the Department, and in some instances the Ordinances were found not to have been satisfactorily followed. In most cases the offenders were warned personally or by letter, and in one case proceedings were taken in the courts of the Colony and the offender punished.

25. In addition to the regular inspections made in connection with the carrying out of the Ordinances, special inspections were made in connection with refineries, pipe-lines, dams, etc., as occasion required.

26. EXPLORATION LICENSES.—Two exploration licenses covering 223,389 acres have been issued during the year; that to the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, covering 204,362 acres being issued as from March 3rd, 1913, and renewed for a further year. Active exploration work has been in progress over these lands since the date of issue.

27. PROSPECTING LICENSES.—Only one prospecting license has been issued during the year, viz.: to the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, over an area of 500 acres in the Ward of Turure. In addition 4 Prospecting Licenses, covering an area of 8,041 acres, have been re-issued or renewed.

28. OTHER MINING OPERATIONS.—Little further work was done under the Exploration License to prospect for Gold and Silver mentioned in my last report: the license expired and was not renewed. No other mining work of note has been undertaken in the colony during the past year.

29. QUARRIES.—There is little of interest to report under this head. As before, quarrying in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando is mostly undertaken by private owners for the sale of metal and gravel. In the country districts, with very few exceptions, the quarries are under the charge of the Public Works Department. During the year, 4 prosecutions were undertaken by the department for breaches of the Ordinance and Regulations thereunder.

30. RETURNS UNDER THE ORDINANCES.—In the last report mention was made of the difficulty experienced in getting the Managers to comply with the provisions of the Ordinances with regard to the furnishing of returns under Section 18 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907. In 14 cases proceedings were taken against either the owner or the manager with respect to last year's returns, and I am glad to say no difficulty was encountered this year. Appendix A. is compiled from the returns under Section 18 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907, and gives the average daily number of persons employed and the output from the various Mines, Borings and Quarries.

31. ACCIDENTS.—Appendix B gives the list of accidents which happened at the various Oilfields and Quarries. For the most part they were isolated cases of a purely accidental nature.

The most serious case was that which happened at the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, on the 31st October last: well No. 8 was flowing to a considerable height at 6.45 a.m. on that date, and in some way that was not discovered the gas which was being given off caught fire at some 25 to 30 feet from the well and set it on fire. Eight men who were on the rig at the time were severely burnt, and four of them succumbed to their injuries. The enquiry held by the Coroner failed to discover that there was any blame to be attached to the company.

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

32. As no additional land has been declared "Asphalt Bearing" under Section 7 of the Ordinance, all the work under this Ordinance has been carried on at La Brea as heretofore. There has however been a great diminution of work during the past year, only one "Notice to Commence" having been received as against nine during the financial year 1912-13.

The number of levels taken during the year was 500, against 2,589 in the previous year; the total number of levels taken now amounts to 22,273.

Three applications for Certificates of Award under Section 11 of the Ordinance were received, and in all cases it was found that the adjoining lands had been unduly depleted by digging operations, and certificates were accordingly issued.

No application for a permit under Section 9 has been received during the year.

33. As I only assumed the appointment of Inspector of Mines on 1st April last I am indebted to the present Deputy-Inspector of Mines (Mr. A. P. Catherall) for most of the information given in this report.

P. STEVENS.

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, 1914.

Mineral.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximate value.		
	Males.	Females.			£	s.	d.
Manjak	58	8	66	581 tons ...	1,402	10	5
Oil	1,194	15	1,209	22,523,060 Imp. gals.	95,560	16	11
Asphalt (Crude, Epurée, &c.) ...	848	20	868	226,634 tons ...	150,660	8	4
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, &c.)	149	62	211	75,731½ " ...	7,069	9	2
Government Quarries (Limestone, &c.)	455	86	541	70,750½ " ...	8,537	11	10½

NOTE.—The difference in value between metal won from Private Quarries and Government Quarries is that the former consists 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 1913-14 reported under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907.

Name of Mine, Oilfield or Quarry.	Date.	No. of Accidents reported.			
		Minor.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
Carrera Quarry	14th April, 1913	..	1	...	1
	5th May, "	1	...	...	1
La Brea Asphalt Works ...	6th June, "	...	1	...	1
	26th February, 1914	1	...	...	1
	14th June, 1913	1	...	...	1
	20th " "	1	...	...	1
	8th July, "	1	...	...	1
	15th " "	1	...	...	1
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd.	2nd August, "	...	1	...	1
	1st September, "	1	...	...	1
	4th November, "	2	...	...	2
	3rd March, 1914	1	...	...	1
	19th " "	1	...	...	1
Perseverance Estate	26th June, 1913	1	...	...	1
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	31st October, "	...	4	4	8
Glendale Quarry	8th November, "	...	...	1	1
Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Co., Ltd.	25th " "	...	...	1	1
	14th March, 1914	...	1	...	1
Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Ltd.	3rd Dec'mbr, 1913	...	...	1	1
	26th February, 1914	...	...	1	1
Champ Fleurs Quarry	9th January "	1	...	...	1
		13	8	8	29

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the financial year 1913-14.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed.	Mineral Worked.
<i>Mines.</i>						
1	Williamsville ...	Savana Grande	J. C. T. Raspass, San Fernando	J. C. T. Raspass	22	Manjak.
2	Hardbargain ...	"	"	"	20	"
3	Guayanapa ...	"	"	"	9	"
4	Vistabella ...	San Fernando	Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Co., Philadelphia, U.S.A.	J. J. Waddell	15	"
5	Village Lots ...	La Brea	Ambard & Protheroe, Port-of-Spain	R. Fitzallen	140	Asphalt.
6	La Brea Asphalt Works ...	"	C. F. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	C. Phelps	197	"
7	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited	Pitech Lake	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd., London, England	W. D. Fowler	581	"
<i>Oilfields.</i>						
1	Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Limited	Rio Claro, Mayaro road	The Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Limited, 79 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.	A. Covey	40	Oil.
2	Perseverance Estate	Guapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	18	"
3	Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Company, Limited	Barrackpore	Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Co., Ltd., London & San F'do.	G. A. Peat	60	"
4	Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited	Oropuche	Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited, 6 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.	C. E. Burrows	14	"
5	The Cruse Syndicate, Limited	Guapo	Cruse Syndicate, Limited, 79 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.	H. D. Fletcher	88	"
6	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	Oropuche	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, 76 Marine Square, Port-of-Spain	H. Korkhaus	98.4	"
7	Petroleum Development Coy., Limited	Brighton	Petroleum Development Company, Limited, Brighton	W. D. Fowler	85	"
8	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited	"	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton	G. W. McPherson	450	"
9	Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited	Icacos	Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited, London	F. S. Brack	20	"
10	Trinidad Oilfields, Limited	Point Fortin	The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, 32, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.	G. Bailward	278	"
11	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	Tabaquite	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, 79, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.	H. P. Ingram	40.85	"
12	Trinidad Oil Leases, Limited	Cap-de-Ville	Trinidad Oil Leases, Limited, 8, Drapers Gardens, London	G. Trestrail	1.5	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	Needham	Santa Cruz	N. Maude Roxby, Santa Cruz	R. William	7	Limestone.
2	Villa Mar	Gaspree	F. Herrera, 40, South Quay	J. Hubert	4	"
3	Circular road	San Fernando	Borough Council, San Fernando	J. Waddell	3	Gravel.
4	Mon Repos	North Naparima	Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, San Fernando	O. P. Bennett	4	"
5	Basilon street	East Dry River	J. T. Gittens, 25 Tragarete road	J. Lashley	10	Limestone.
6	Clifton Hill	Laventille	"	"	7	"
7	Irving Lane	"	"	"	5	"
8	Campo street	San Juan	"	J. T. Gittens	5	"
9	Quarry street	Port-of-Spain	"	J. Lashley	11	"
10	Tennis Class	Laventille	"	M. Goveia	8	"
11	Manzanilla Local Road Board	Manzanilla	Manzanilla Local Road Board, Sangre Grande	G. Cumberbatch	3	"
12	Champ Fleurs	St. Joseph	F. J. Gransaul, St. Joseph	L. Brown	3	"
13	Bon Accord	Pointe-à-Pierre	P. Glendenning, Port-of-Spain	W. B. Sammy	82	Sandstone.

'APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the financial year 1913-14.—CONTD.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed.	Mineral Worked.
14	Glendale	San Fernando	H. R. McClean, San Fernando	H. R. McClean	10	Gravel.
15	Trelawne	Montserrat	E. F. Store, Tabaquite	E. Manohur	3	"
16	La Coulée	San Fernando	Heirs of Mary Joaquin, San Fernando	F. E. Oliveira	1	"
17	Masson	Pointe Gourde	G. Dranguet, Port-of-Spain	F. B. Masson	8	Limestone.
18	Mahon	"	G. Mahon, Pointe Gourde	J. Streath	2	"
19	Harewood and Pickering	San Fernando	P. Pickering & A. Harewood, San Fernando	P. Pickering	2	Gravel.
20	Gonzales	Gloster Lodge road	P. Gonzales, Belmont	F. Gonzales	5	Limestone.
21	La Pique Gravel Pit	San Fernando	The Canadian Mission, San Fernando	H. F. Kemp	2	Gravel.
22	St. Louis	Laventille	A. Richards, 20A, Laventille road	T. St. Louis	Nil.	Nil.
23	Macaulay	Claxton's Bay	Huralal and Baboolal, Claxton's Bay	P. Pickering	3	Sandstone.
24	Duke street	Port-of-Spain	V. Prime, Port-of-Spain	C. Atwell	9	Limestone.
25	Pierre's	St. Joseph Village, San Fernando	L. Charles, San Fernando	C. Lucas	...	
26	Phoenix Park	Couva	Connell and Henderson	J. Hinkson	...	Sandstone.
27	Forres Park	"	Henderson Brothers	"	6	Shells.
28	River Estate	Diego Martin	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain	District Officer	5	Limestone.
29	Cutucupano	Santa Cruz	"	"	4	"
30	Trinidad Government Railway	St. Joseph	"	J. W. Stewart	18	"
31	Matchapoura	Talparo road	"	District Officer	9.5	"
32	El Cupano	Tamana road	"	"	...	"
33	Sanchuchu	"	"	"	6.9	"
34	Mayo	Mayo village	"	"	9	"
35	Morichal	Morichal	"	"	8	"
36	Guaracara	Guaracara	"	"	6	"
37	Corosal	Corosal road	"	"	5	"
38	Providence	Tobago	"	"	4	Dead Rock.
39	Sherwood Park	"	"	"	2	Limestone.
40	Whim	"	"	District Officer	4	Dead rock.
41	Morne Diable	Peñal	"	"	24	Limestone.
42	Mount Hope	Mount Hope	"	Manager, Govt. Farm	1	"
43	Eastern Quarry	Laventille	"	Asst. Engineer, Public Works Department.	96	"
44	Moruga	Moruga	"	District Officer	15	Sandstone.
45	La Ressource	Erin	"	"	4	Porcellanite.
46	Buenos Ayres	"	"	"	5.5	"
47	Siparia	Siparia	"	"	14	"
48	Southern Central road No. 1	"	"	"	12.1	Stone.
49	Quinam	"	"	"	9	Sandstone.
50	Cunapo Southern road	Cunapo	"	"	10	Limestone.
51	Prisoners'	Laventille	"	Supt. of Prisons	43	"
52	Point Radix	Mayaro	"	District Officer	8	"
53	Carrera	Carrera Island	"	Supt. Warder	161	"
54	Biche	Biche	"	District Officer	...	"
55	Plum	Plum	"	"	35	"
56	Guaico Tamana	Guaico Tamana	"	"	22	"
57	Cumuto	Cumuto	"	"	...	"