

How Rockefeller Gets His Oil



JAMES R. GARFIELD.

THE oil business has come very sharply into the public eye since the president's special message on the subject and the proceedings begun by the interstate commerce commission under the congressional resolution ordering an inquiry into the methods of the Standard Oil trust. The report of the commissioner of corporations, James R. Garfield, on which the message of the president was based, states that about 20,000,000 barrels of oil are refined annually in the United States and that of this product the Standard Oil company and its subsidiary corporations control about 23,000,000 barrels, and approximately the same proportion of the other finished products of petroleum. The methods by which the Standard has gained this practical monopoly over the petroleum output of the United States are described in considerable detail in Mr. Garfield's report, and the abuses in the matter of improper and unfair railway rates alleged to exist have been cited as among the reasons for the passage of the railway rate measure now pending in congress.

The growth of the petroleum industry to its present gigantic proportions in this country is one of the marvels of the past half century, and as an industry the oil business has had even greater prominence than these proportions might naturally have won it on account of the fierce battle that has been waged for years against the attempt of the Standard to secure and maintain a monopoly in it.

It is not quite half a century since E. L. Drake struck oil on Watson's flats, near Titusville, Pa. The exact date of this event, so important in the annals of American industry, was Aug. 28, 1858. The scenes in the oil fields which soon followed this discovery were almost as exciting as those which were witnessed but a few years previous in the gold fields of California. Wells were sunk in large numbers in western Pennsylvania along Oil creek, French creek and the Allegheny river. The scenes of industry and excitement shifted as the oil wells of different lo-



BURNING THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND BARREL TANK.

calities became exhausted. One of the famous oil towns of forty years ago was Pithole City, which, next to Philadelphia, had at one time the largest postoffice of any city in the state of Pennsylvania. Today the place where Pithole City stood is farm land.

People had been gathering oil at certain places in Pennsylvania in the vicinity of streams for some years previous to Drake's experiment and had been collecting it from the water by means of pits arranged like separators, the water flowing away below, leaving the oil floating on the surface, whence it was dipped up with blankets. Drake sank an artesian well. When the bore had penetrated thirty-three feet the drill dropped into a crevice about six inches. This was on a Saturday night. By Sunday afternoon oil was found near the top of the pipe. Afterward the well produced at the rate of twenty-five barrels a day. This was small in comparison with the output of the big wells of today, but at that time it was considered remarkable. For some two years the new petroleum industry was restricted to the Titusville territory. It was not until 1874 that the Bradford field was developed, and not long after that oil in paying quantities was found in some parts of western New York and in other counties of Pennsylvania. About the time of the Chicago World's fair Ohio came into notice for its oil fields, and in the past half dozen years Texas, Kansas, Indiana, West Virginia, California and some other states in the west and southwest have come to the front in the industry.

The oil regions abound in picturesque sights. An oil tank on fire makes a brilliant display, and it does not take long for a tank with even such a capacity as 35,000 barrels to go up in flame and smoke. Shooting an oil well is a common though dangerous operation in this industry, and its frequency accustoms those who work in the oil fields to regard the performance with as much complacency as if it were an incident attended with no peril whatever. The operation consists in exploding a nitroglycerin torpedo at the bottom of the drill hole to make the oil flow. Often after the explosion the oil comes out of the well with tremendous force and velocity.

MME. CURIE'S HONORS.

Her Appointment to Her Late Husband's Chair at the Sorbonne. One of the most wonderful women of the time is Mme. Sklodowska Curie, who with her husband, the late Professor Pierre Curie, discovered radium. When Professor Curie was killed by an accident last April the important question arose as to who should be appointed his successor as lecturer on physics and chemistry at the University of Paris. It is now announced that the faculty of science of the university has confirmed the initiative of the minister of public instruction of France in appointing the professor's widow to the position he recently held. It is the first time a woman has held this high position.

Professor Curie always considered his wife a greater scientist than himself



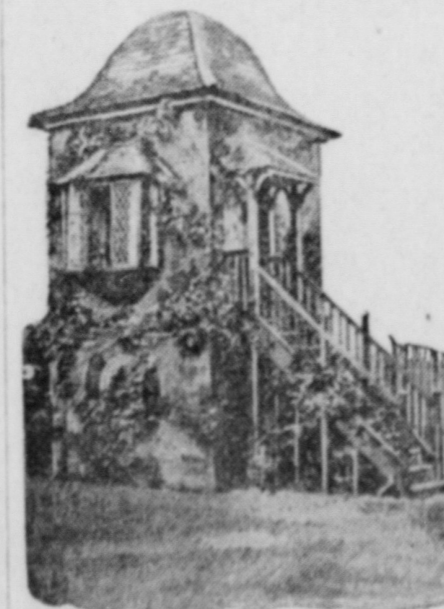
MME. SKLODOWSKA CURIE.

and gave her the major share of the credit for the discovery of radium. He would not accept the high honor of the cross of the Legion of Honor because it was not also conferred upon her. She did receive, however, in conjunction with her husband, the Nobel prize for chemistry, and she also was awarded \$12,000 from the Osiris prize of France. She is about forty years of age. She is a native of Poland, married Professor Curie in 1895 and has a little daughter about seven years old. She was once a student under her husband and afterward his assistant. Professor and Mrs. Curie underwent the utmost privation in order to carry on the experiments which led to their great discoveries.

IN A NOVELIST'S GARDEN.

Charming Retreat Where Marie Corelli Writes.

Comparatively little is known of the great novelist, Marie Corelli, by the readers of her books. She shuns publicity, rarely sits for a photograph, and, though her books are talked about so much, she herself is a personality by no means familiar to the world at large. Though famous for twenty years, Miss Corelli is still in the thirties. She weighs about 120 pounds and when in conversation is animated and cheerful in expression, though a sad look comes over her face when it is in repose. She lives in a quaint old manor



TOWER IN WHICH MARIE CORELLI WRITES house, Mason Croft, at Stratford-on-Avon, renowned as the home of Shakespeare. Miss Corelli is of mingled

PAINS IN THE BACK

are the first signs of Kidney trouble. Thousands have kidney trouble and do not know it. When the kidneys become affected they in turn will affect the Nerves, causing Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Restlessness and Irritability; too frequent or infrequent Urination; Excessive, Scanty or Painful Urinary Passages. For these disorders take

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Scotch and Italian parentage and was adopted in infancy by Charles Mackay, the song writer and litterateur. She spent her early childhood in England, was educated chiefly in France and received a fine training in music. She is very fond of music and performs delightfully on several instruments, while she is quite popular among her friends for her rendition of national ballads and folk songs. Next to literature and music, perhaps, she loves flowers. Her drawing room opens into a winter garden where roses and lilies bloom all the year round. Besides this, there is a large open air garden, and in it is a small tower where in the summer time she does much of her writing.

The interior of Mason Croft is exquisitely furnished, and antique furniture dating back to Shakespeare's time, rare books, paintings and prints abound.

SENATOR BURTON'S CASE.

Hopes to Avoid Prison, Though Deported in Supreme Court.

For some time the state of Kansas has practically had but one representative in the United States senate. The senior senator from Kansas, Joseph Ralph Burton, has been under indictment and in accordance with precedent in these circumstances has refrained from occupying his seat and voting for measures under consideration. Mr. Burton was charged with using his influence as a senator in behalf of the Illinois Grain and Securities company of St. Louis and with intervening in an improper manner to prevent proceedings being brought against the company by the postoffice department. He was tried and convicted, but secured a new trial, the outcome of which was a second conviction. He then took his case to the supreme court, which has just affirmed the decisions of the lower courts against the senator. His counsel has filed a petition for a rehearing of the case, and Mr. Burton says he will not give up hope of establishing his innocence until after he has obtained that which he now asks.

Should the attitude of the supreme court in his case be unchanged the effect of the decision will be to enforce the original sentence of imprisonment in the Iron county (Mo.) jail for nine months and the payment of a fine of \$2,500 for violating the law which declares that no senator or member of the house of representatives may act as attorney before any executive branch of the government.

Senator Burton was born in Indiana in 1851, was reared on a farm and spent three years at Franklin college and one year at DePauw university. In 1875 he married Mrs. Carrie Webster and in the same year was admitted to the bar. He has served in the Kansas legislature, was elected to the

senate in 1901, and his biography occupies but three lines in the Congressional Directory.

GRANGE MEETING.

The prospects for a large gathering of Patrons at Centre Hall, Friday, June 15th, are most encouraging. The morning session will open promptly at 9:30 a. m.

The following officers of the State Grange will be present to conduct the ceremonies: Worthy Master, W. F. Hill; Worthy Secretary, J. T. Ailman; Worthy Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Hon. W. T. Creasy; Worthy Flora, Mrs. Dale, and possibly several others.

The morning session will be taken up by an elaborate illustration of the Local Grange degree work. The four subordinate degrees of the order will be given in full.

A free luncheon will be served in the Hall at noon by the members of the local granges.

The afternoon session will open at 1:30 p. m. At 2 p. m. the degree of Pomona (fifth degree) will be conferred in full form by the Centre County Grange. All fourth degree members are eligible to this degree and can make application for the degree

on the day of the meeting.

At 3 p. m. the degree of Flora (sixth degree) will be conferred by the officers of the State Grange, who will have charge of the ceremonies. All fourth degree members are eligible to this degree by first making application for the fifth degree.

Application for the fifth and sixth degrees will be received at the same time on the day of the meeting, so that this meeting will give every member of the order in the county an opportunity to take the higher degrees of the order. It is expected that every member will, if at all possible, avail himself of the honor of these higher degrees.

At 8 p. m. a public meeting will be held to which everybody is cordially invited. Addresses will be delivered by Worthy Master Hill, Worthy Secretary Ailman, Hon. W. T. Creasy and others, with recitations and music by local talent.

A public festival will be held by Progress Grange during the day and evening in the basement of the hall. Ice cream and refreshments will be served at all hours, and everybody is cordially invited. COMMITTEE.

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.....\$11.50 Cash	50-tooth Lever Spike Harrow.....\$10.00
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