

CLOSING THE GAPS.

The Standard Oil Company Fast Completing Its Mammoth Deal.

A BIG PLANT GOBBLED.

The Ohio Oil Company Sells Out to the Monopoly.

COMPETITION KNOCKED OUT OF SHAPE.

The Octopus Closes in 15,000 Acres at One Sotch—An Additional Daily Production of 5,000 Barrels of the Staff That Formerly Held Such an Order and Could Not be Refused—A Million-Dollar Company Wiped Out—Captain J. J. Vandergrift, of Pittsburgh, Gives Further Details About the Pipe Line Project—Pipe Contracts Which the Standard Has Placed in Pittsburgh—Railways That Carry Them, and How They Are to be Delivered.

Yesterday's developments fully confirm the statement made in THE DISPATCH of the same date in a special from Chicago, that the Standard Oil Company was closing arrangements whereby it was to obtain possession of the Ohio oil field, refine Lima oil and put it on the market in competition with the more expensive and desirable Pennsylvania product. The Ohio Oil Company yesterday sold its 15,000 acres to the giant monopoly, and thus shut off nearly all opposition in Ohio. The pipe line arrangements are also as stated, and the "largest refinery and oil reservoir in the world" are being erected at Lima.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH: LIMA, O., April 17.—I arrived here late this afternoon from Chicago, from where details of the great Standard Oil deal were wired last night, and while I have hardly had more than time to take my bearings, am able to furnish any amount of evidence corroborating what was sent last night. I find the Standard has a refinery consisting of 20 stills, of 500 barrels capacity, and am reliably informed that the plans do not call for the doubling of this, but, on the other hand, 80 stills, for a like capacity, or an aggregate of 40,000 barrels capacity for the mammoth refinery when completed. It takes 48 hours to empty these stills, and the daily capacity, when completed, will be 20,000 barrels.

A Continuous City of Tanks.—The present refinery is upon the outskirts of this town, of about 20,000 inhabitants, and is surrounded by about forty 30,000 barrel tanks. A short drive to the southward showed a continuous city of these tanks, all located with mathematical precision. These tanks extend as far south as Crider'sville, six miles distant, and cover hundreds of acres of rich farm land, as level as a floor. This seems to be the distinctive characteristic of this field. I am told there is not even a hill within 50 miles of it. A noteworthy fact is that it is sweeping outwards the roof of many of these tanks, all of which are said to be full.

The Big Reservoir Well Under Way. Work on the 22-acre reservoir is being pushed. It is located in the woods, from which the timber has already about all been removed, and most of the stumps taken out. I find this reservoir is to be flooded with grooved plank and subdivided into compartments of one acre each. It is to be completed by October 1. The plans of the Standard call for such extensive work here that it cannot be completed before snow flies.

I was too late to see the oil fraternity to night, but from H. D. Campbell, one of the editors of the Lima Gazette, I learned considerable news, all of which is corroborative of what has already been printed. He says the Standard now has five men, headed by William Fleming, in this field closing for all possible territory at advancing prices, and that they succeed to-day in closing a deal with the Ohio Oil Company, an association of the largest producers, whereby they secure about 12,000 acres of land, about one-fourth of which has been tested.

Something of the Squelched Company. The daily production of the developed part of this vast tract is 3,000 barrels. The company, by the way, is officers by old Pennsylvania oil men. H. M. Ernst is President, W. H. Mandeville, Treasurer, and J. C. Lineman, General Manager. The capital stock is \$1,000,000, and the price is said to have been \$75 per share of par value of \$100.

This deal, which seems to have been made in the nick of time, gives the Standard about 25,000 acres in the Ohio field, the chief tract of which extends a distance of nearly 50 miles from a point in the edge of Mercer county, beyond St. Mary's in Auglaize county, around through Auglaize and Allen counties, to Lima, which city is headquarters of all operations.

What Lies Under the Surface.

There is another feature to this purchase. The Ohio Oil Company was not only the most formidable competitive producer since the Standard had acquired so much territory, but it furnished oil to the Lima Oil Company, of this city, and Schofield, Sherman & Tingle, of Cleveland, and this deal, of course, shuts these two independent competitors out. It is believed, however, that they will be able to get sufficient supply from other producers, of whom about ten, with a production of 50 to 600 barrels daily, have narrowly escaped the clutches of the Standard.

Among those who are fortunate enough to not have sold out to the Standard is the firm of Hoover Bros., Mehaffey & Spear, who own 700 acres in the midst of the field, with 600 barrels production already developed. They are now erecting temporary stills for experimental purposes, and contemplate erecting a large refinery in company with Albany, N. Y., parties.

The Actual Value of Lima Oil. I asked Mr. Campbell what practical oil men will consider Lima oil worth, as com-

pares with Pennsylvania oil. He says they have not regarded it as being worth as much as the Washington county, Pennsylvania, product, but that it has been said all along by the best of them that there is no such difference in value as indicated by the prevailing prices. He says he has been told that 20 cents per barrel would cover the difference in value.

As to the cost of production here, he says oil men agree that at 25 cents it would afford handsome profits. I asked him whether the Standard has acquired all the desirable territory, and he says that not only have they, but that the extent of the field is yet unknown, and drillers at Buckland, on the Lake Erie and Western Railway, which is new territory, continue to bring in 100 to 200 barrel wells, and beside this fine territory, there is a great amount of what is known as 40 to 60-barrel territory, which has not been taken in by the Standard, and a considerable amount of uncertain territory, which some oil men believe to be rich. He says the Standard people here neither affirm nor deny the published reports of the gigantic scheme.

The Scoop Complete as Stated.

Confirmatory of all that has been stated by THE DISPATCH correspondent, another special from Lima says: The Standard Oil Company to-day closed the deal whereby they became the possessors of a majority of the stock of the Ohio Oil Company. This gives them control of the Lima field. The Ohio Company is composed of an association of producers in this field. Their leases cover 15,000 acres, with a daily production of 5,000 barrels of oil. A considerable portion of the territory is as yet undeveloped. The price paid for the stock is said to range from 37 to 75 cents. C. F. Lufkin conducted the business for the Standard Company. They have a large force of men engaged in enlarging their refinery grounds here, with the intention of making these Solar works the greatest refinery in the country.

HE IS AN AUTHORITY.

Captain J. J. Vandergrift Says That Lima Oil Smells—He Confirms the Pipe Line Story and Gives the True Inwardness of it.

"Does Lima oil still smell, or does it not?"

In those words a reporter of THE DISPATCH asked Captain J. J. Vandergrift, yesterday afternoon, for a confirmation or denial of the story telegraphed this paper from Chicago. It was assumed that the Captain should know all about the matter, on account of his official connection with the National Transit Company, The Pine Lines, and the Standard Oil Company. He had received the reporter in the office of the National Transit Company on Fourth avenue, next to the Petroleum Exchange.

"It still smells," he replied, "and it smells just as loud as ever. I know this to be true. If I were to break a bottle of it in other respects?" continued the writer.

"Well, so far as that pipe line is concerned THE DISPATCH is correct," answered Captain Vandergrift. "Now here is

THE REAL INWARDNESS.

of that: This Lima oil can be pumped to New York without difficulty. There is at this moment empty tankage for as much as 16,000 barrels in the upper oil regions of Pennsylvania. It is a great deal cheaper for the Standard to lay pipe lines to fill these empty tanks than to cut down the tanks and remove them to Ohio. Tanks are always better as they stand than after removal and rebuilding. The oil will therefore be taken to these Pennsylvania tanks on its road to New York, and no vast reservoir will be built for its storage at Lima. That is all both."

The bridge is weighted down with sacks of earth and made fast to the shore with hawsers. Few of the boomers west of here will be able to get their supplies across the swollen streams, and those who do not come here will endeavor to get over in person with their weapons as their only baggage and return subsequently for their outfit. The Arkansas and Walnut rivers have subsided, but the Cimarron is booming at a furious rate.

It would be hard to describe the feverish excitement prevailing in the towns along the strip. Every man distrusts his neighbor. A false alarm would send the thousands of restless men over the border like a flock of sheep. It is going to be a mad scramble for the cherished land, and in the rush there are certain to be bloody collisions and untold misery.

The campers realize that all cannot cross the border at the same place, and there will be a scattering along the border for miles. A terrible wind and rain storm passed over here last night, which played havoc with the broken tents. Women and children were crushed and badly injured.

A dispatch from Caldwell says: The Oklahoma excitement is at its height here to-day. It is almost impossible to get across the line into the Cherokee strip immediately after midnight Thursday, has created a great stir among the prospectors here, and it is thought that the large majority of them will take advantage of the opportunity, and that midnight to-morrow will witness a grand rush into the strip.

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