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Geol Survey

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
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**PRESS BULLETIN** #2

(For immediate release)

OIL AND GAS PROSPECTING IN PARTS OF CLARK,  
COLES, EDGAR, DOUGLAS, AND CHAMPAIGN  
COUNTIES

The Illinois State Geological Survey is at present working in parts of Clark, Coles, Edgar, Douglas, and Champaign counties. The object of this work is to publish at the earliest possible date all data obtainable relating to oil and gas, but as this will require several months, it is desired to place before the public a brief summary of present knowledge of the conditions in this region.

Considerable attention is at present being given by oil men to the country north of Westfield. The old fields have been rather thoroughly drilled for the shallow sands. The Ohio Oil Company's "Trenton" well last September on the Smith farm, Sec. 5, Parker Township, Clark County, showed the possibility of a "pay" at that horizon in this part of the State. The increased value of petroleum, along with certain other factors, has also stimulated leasing, in the hopes of finding a northward continuation of the oil area, for both the shallow and the deep pays.

In Lawrence, Crawford, and Clark counties, the present productive oil area lies on the nearly flat eastern limb of the La Salle anticline. On this flat limb, local structures and thickening of sand lenses have resulted in oil pools. This productive zone reaches its greatest width, approximately 16 miles east and west, in Crawford County. The oil sands to date in Lawrence County have been in the Pennsylvanian, Chester, and Lower Mississippian beds. In Crawford County, practically all production has been from the Pennsylvanian sands. In Clark County both the Pennsylvanian and the Mississippian lime have produced oil, but the Chester beds are not generally represented here. Five wells, in Parker Township, Clark County, which penetrate the deeper "Trenton" lime show it to be oil bearing. The

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best of these wells, the Smith, mentioned above, which encountered the "Trenton" at 2,266 feet, had oil shows from 2,290 to 2,423. This well is reported to have settled to 20 barrels per day.

In considering the probable extension of the oil-producing area, the eastern limb of the La Salle anticline undoubtedly offers the best zone for prospecting. It is not possible at present to map accurately the direction of this anticline, but it is the object of the Survey to outline an area on its gently sloping eastern limb where the conditions appear most favorable for oil accumulation. In describing this zone, the Survey does not imply that oil will not be found outside of its limits, or that it is certainly present in paying quantities within them; but from present knowledge this area looks more promising and appears more worthy of considerable testing than does the area outside. The forthcoming report will be as complete as possible, and it may describe some of the irregularities of the structure. The western boundary of the zone approximates the place where the western limb of the anticline starts its steep westerly dip, and the eastern border is arbitrarily drawn. In our present state of knowledge the western boundary of the favorable zone would be represented by a line from the center of Sec. 30, Westfield Township, Clark County, to a point about one mile west from the center of the town of Oakland, East Oakland Township, Coles County, then northward to a point about one mile west of Murdock, Murdock Township, Douglas County. Prospecting for the present is not recommended east of a line from the center of Sec. 16, T. 12 N., R. 13 W., Grandview Township, Edgar County, to the common corner of Secs. 17, 18, 19, and 20, T. 15 N., R. 13 W., one mile east of Payne.

In Champaign County the data are not sufficient to give any detail, but good oil shows, in a 12-foot sand at 280 feet near Longview, are worthy of note.

It should be understood that any productive zone would at best develop pools in certain parts only.

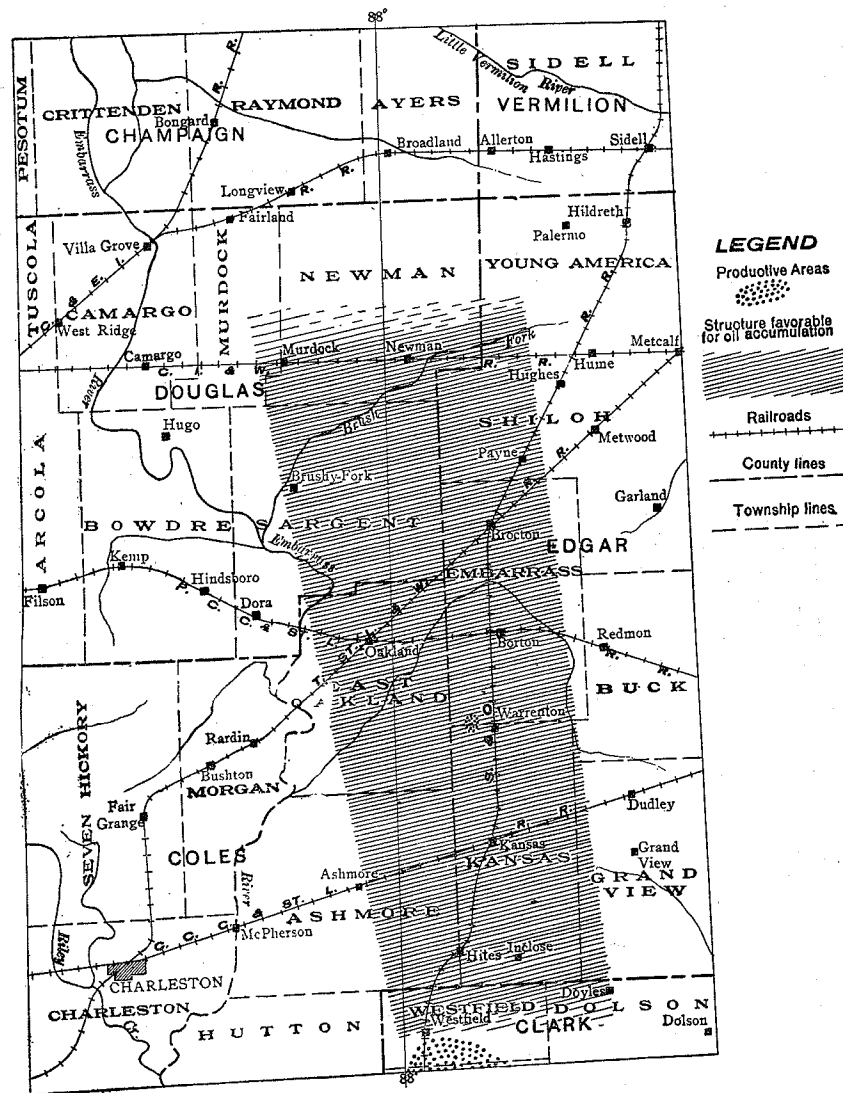
The first sands to be expected, in the zone described above, are Pennsylvanian. The Pennsylvanian system as a whole should thicken to the north and toward the eastern part of the zone, thus increasing the chance of finding more and thicker sands in those directions. No Chester beds are expected. The Mississippian lime probably thins out going north. The Niagaran lime and a local sand in the Maquoketa (the formation overlying the Trenton) present slight possibilities. The Trenton should be reached at shallower depths near the crest of the structure than at Westfield, rising as it does, in the main, to the north along the backbone of the anticline. Tests for shallow production should be made over the whole zone. The Trenton will dip east from the crest of the anticline, how quickly is not yet known, so it would not seem advisable to make the first

"Trenton" tests in the eastern half of the zone above mentioned. They should be near the middle of the western half. A well now drilling in Sec. 13, Kansas Township, Edgar County, should give some information on the "Trenton."

At Warrington, Embarrass Township, Edgar County, 17 wells are giving a small production from a Pennsylvanian sand the top and bottom of which are reached at average depths of about 120 feet and 190 feet, respectively. Locally, a second occurs at 200 feet.

In Pennsylvanian sands at depths from 150 feet to 500 feet, good shows of oil and gas occurred in Secs. 4, 32, 33, 28, 29, and 21, East Oakland Township, and in the southern part of Ashmore Township, Coles County; also in Secs. 22, 24-27, 31, 34, and 35, Embarrass Township, and Secs. 12, 1, 2, 3, and in the southern part of Kansas Township, Edgar County; and also in Sec. 25, Sargent Township, Douglas County.

It would be to the advantage of all concerned in oil work if the operators would send to the Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana, Illinois, logs of all wells drilled. Logs should show at least coals, limestones, and sands, but more detailed logs, not less than one on each farm, are highly desirable, as they are essential to accurate interpretation. All deep holes should be sampled; and sacks will be sent to any parties who notify the Survey of their willingness to cooperate in this way.



Map of parts of Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, and Clark Counties, showing the zone recommended as worthy of oil tests.